Vol.27

ROKUDA NOBORU

F
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THE DREAM

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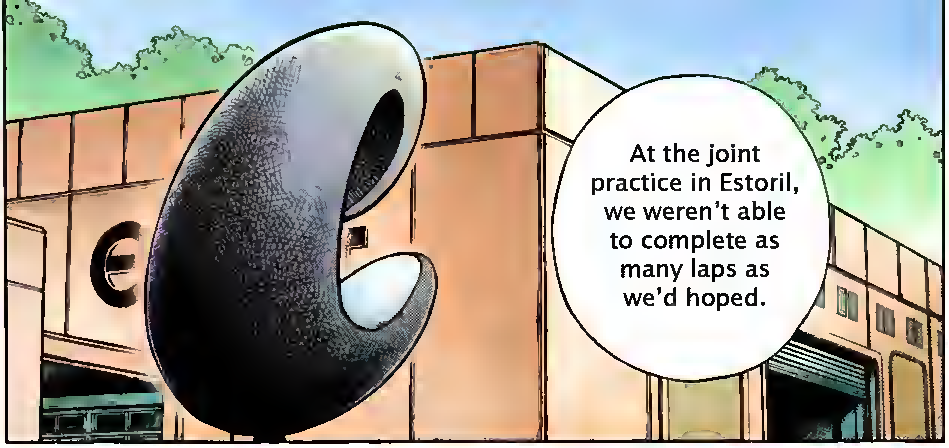
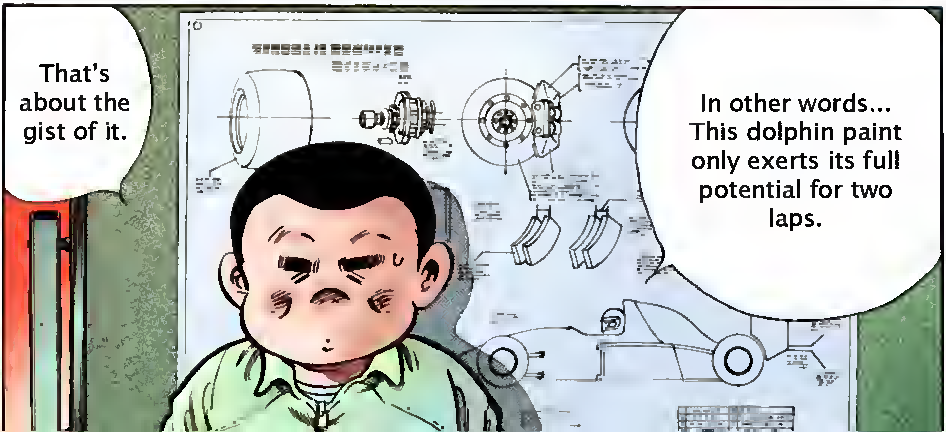
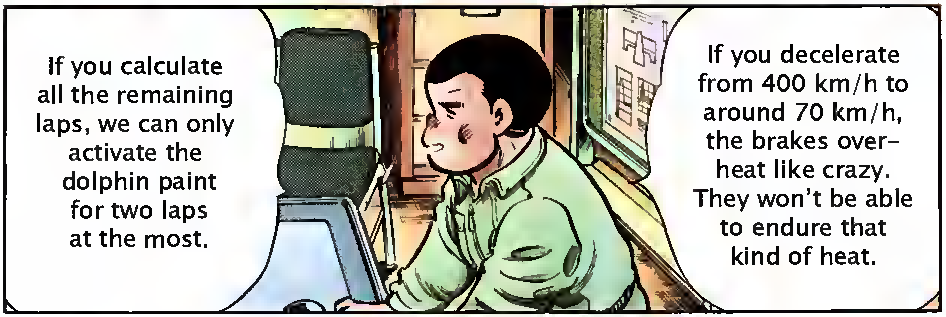
Chapter 1:
In a Blender

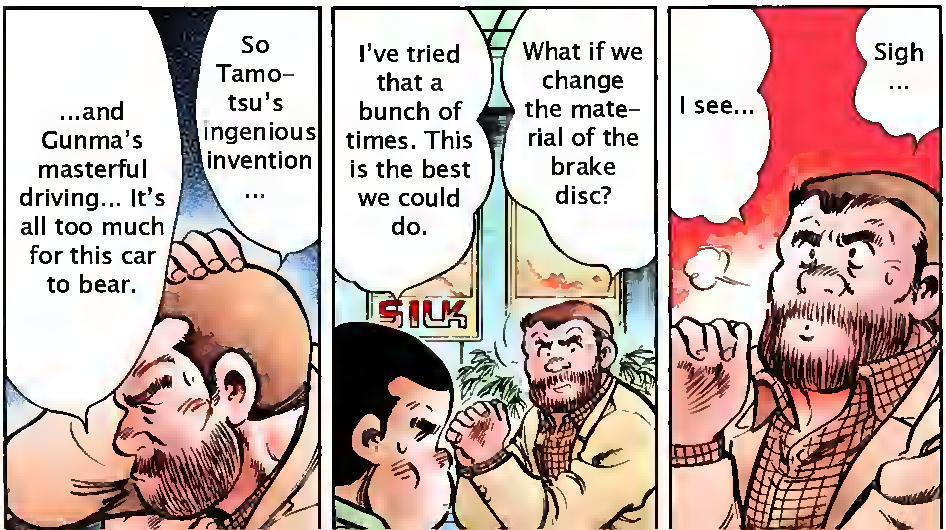

At the joint practice in Estoril, we weren't able to complete as many laps as we'd hoped.

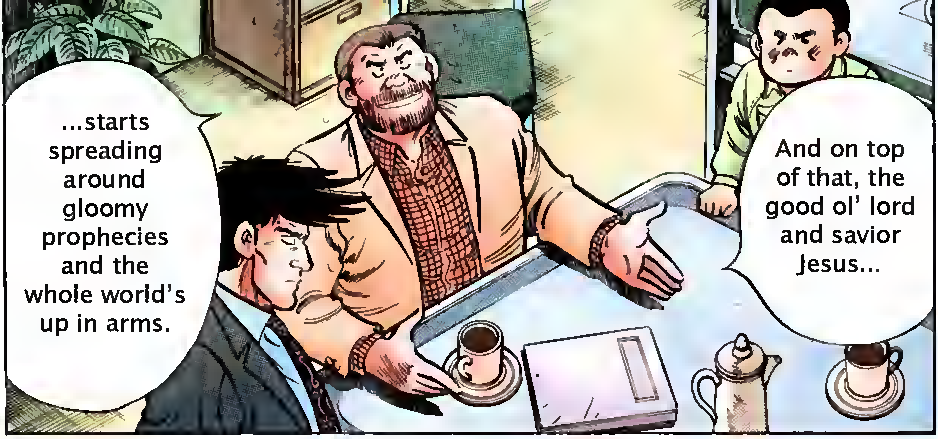
Even at Silverstone, when we kept out the press, five laps was the limit.
So...


That's about the gist of it.
In other words... This dolphin paint only exerts its full potential for two laps.

So even if you do reach 400 km/h on the straights, hitting the brakes becomes a big issue.
Two laps, huh...?


If you calculate all the remaining laps, we can only activate the dolphin paint for two laps at the most.
If you decelerate from 400 km/h to around 70 km/h, the brakes overheat like crazy. They won't be able to endure that kind of heat.

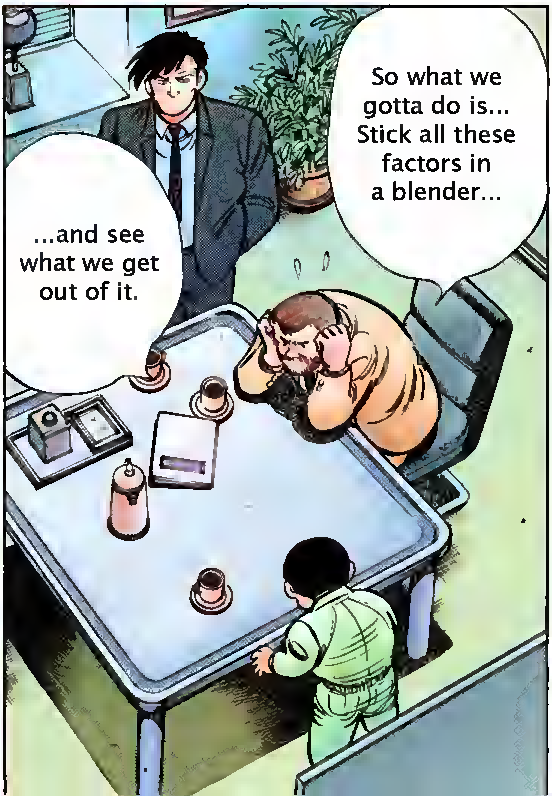

...and Gunma's masterful driving... It's all too much for this car to bear.
So Tamotsu's ingenious invention ...
I've tried that a bunch of times. This is the best we could do.
What if we change the material of the brake disc?
I see...
Sigh ...

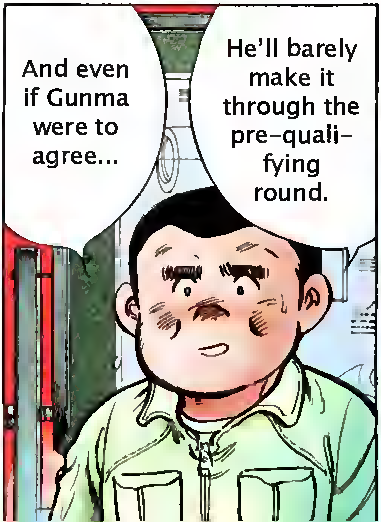

...starts spreading around gloomy prophecies and the whole world's up in arms.
And on top of that, the good ol' lord and savior Jesus...

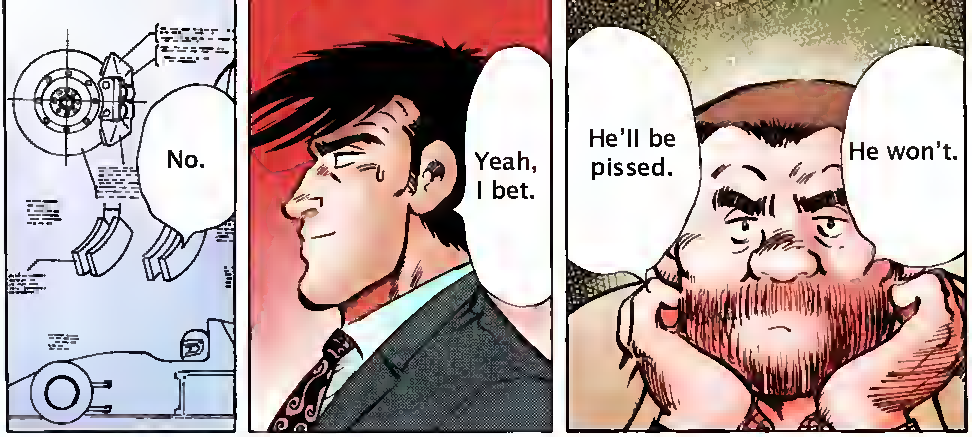
Our dreams...

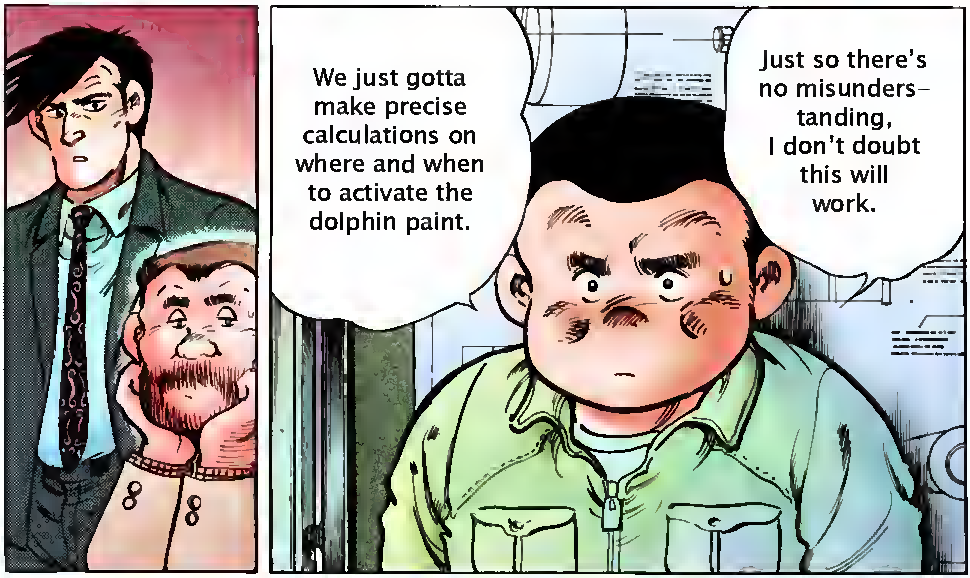
Add to that, Junko's feelings...

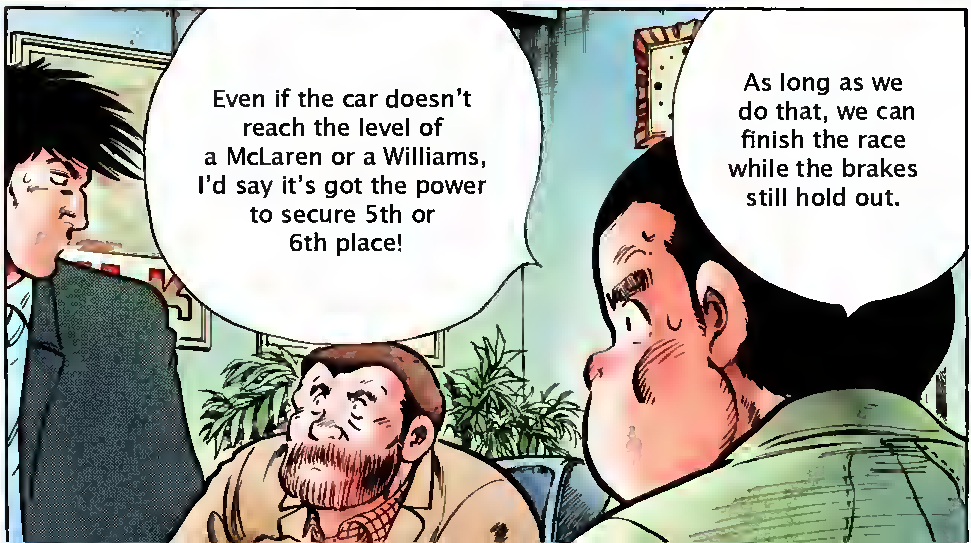
Let's say we give up on the dolphin paint...

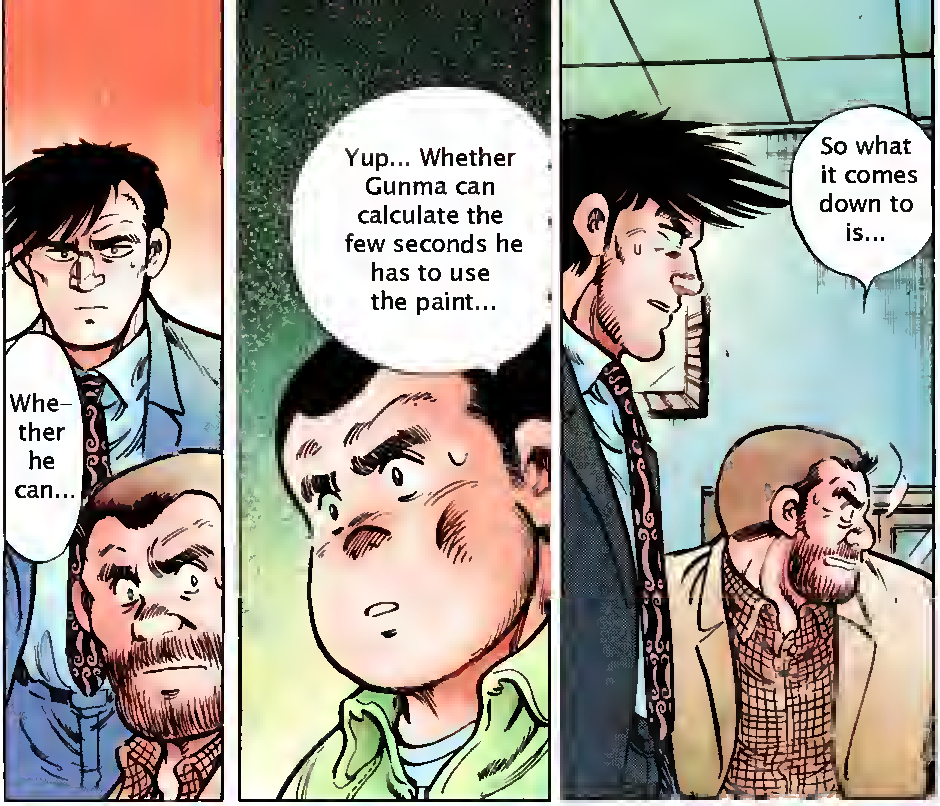

So what we gotta do is... Stick all these factors in a blender...
...and see what we get out of it.

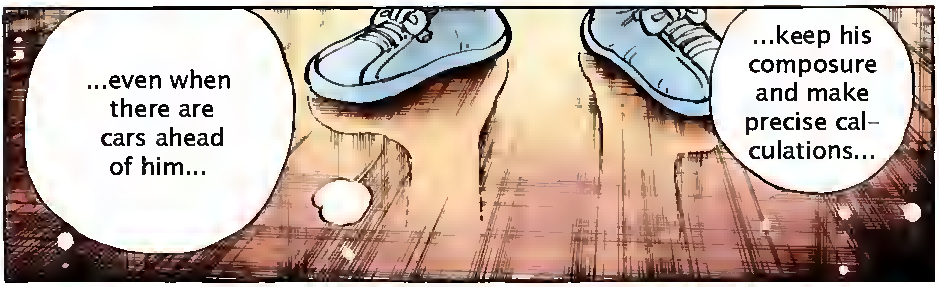

He'll barely make it through the pre-quali-fying round.
And even if Gunma were to agree...

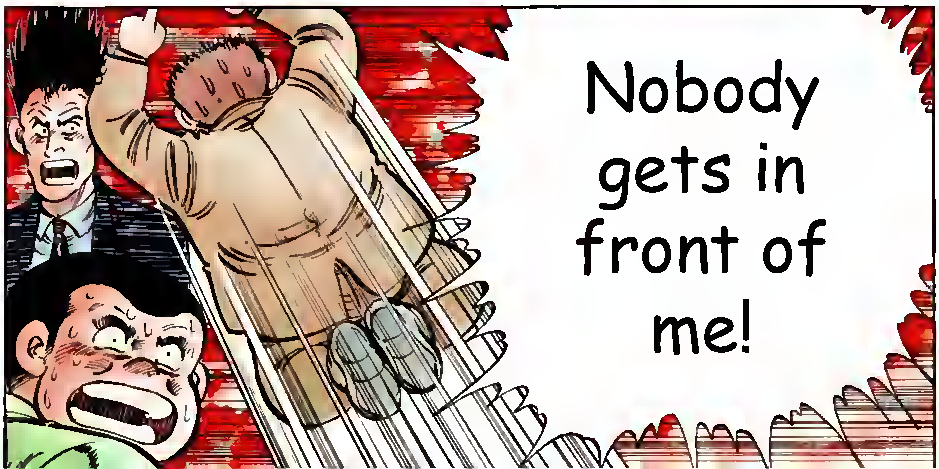

No.
Yeah, I bet.
He'll be pissed.
He won't.

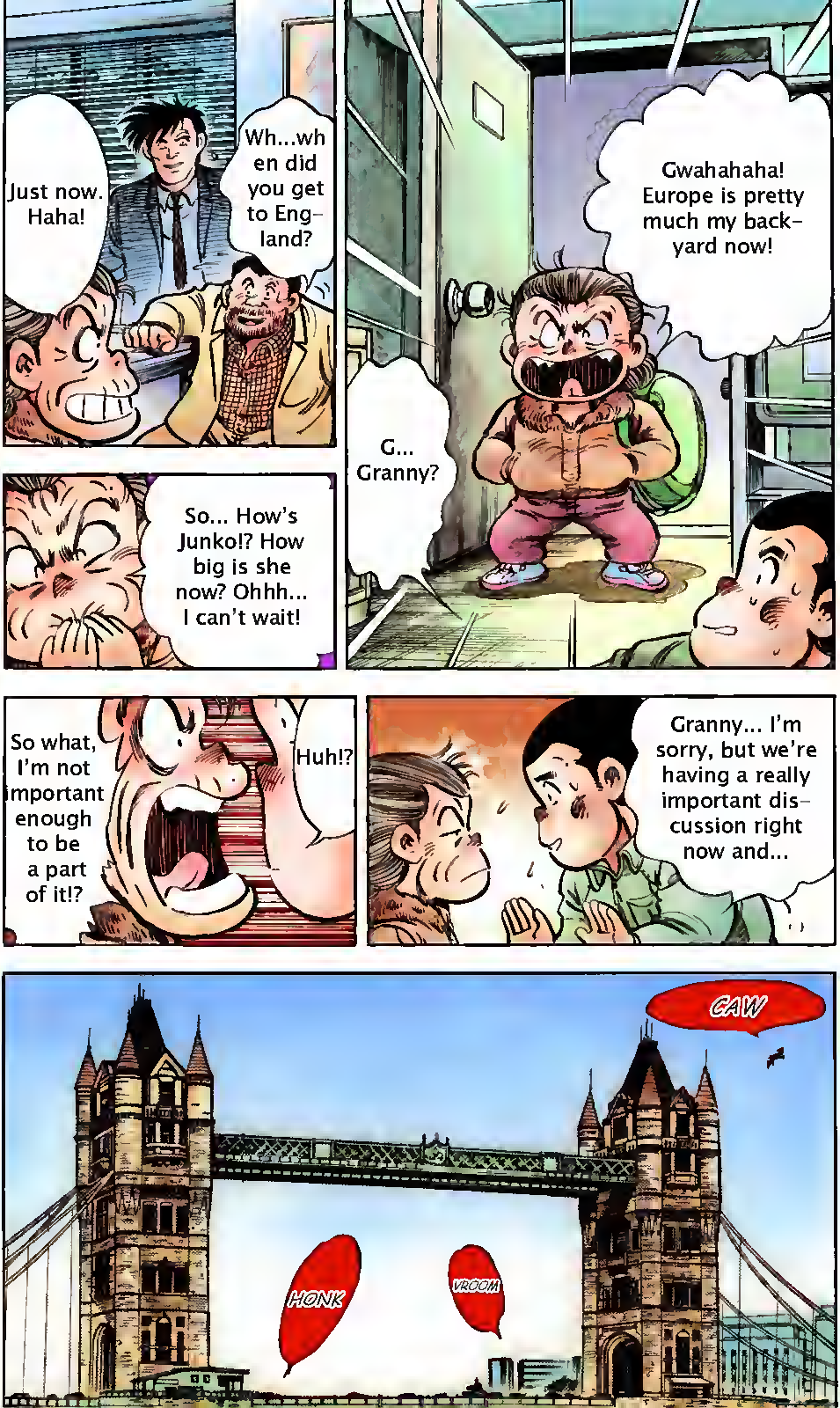

We just gotta make precise calculations on where and when to activate the dolphin paint.
Just so there's no misunders-tanding, I don't doubt this will work.

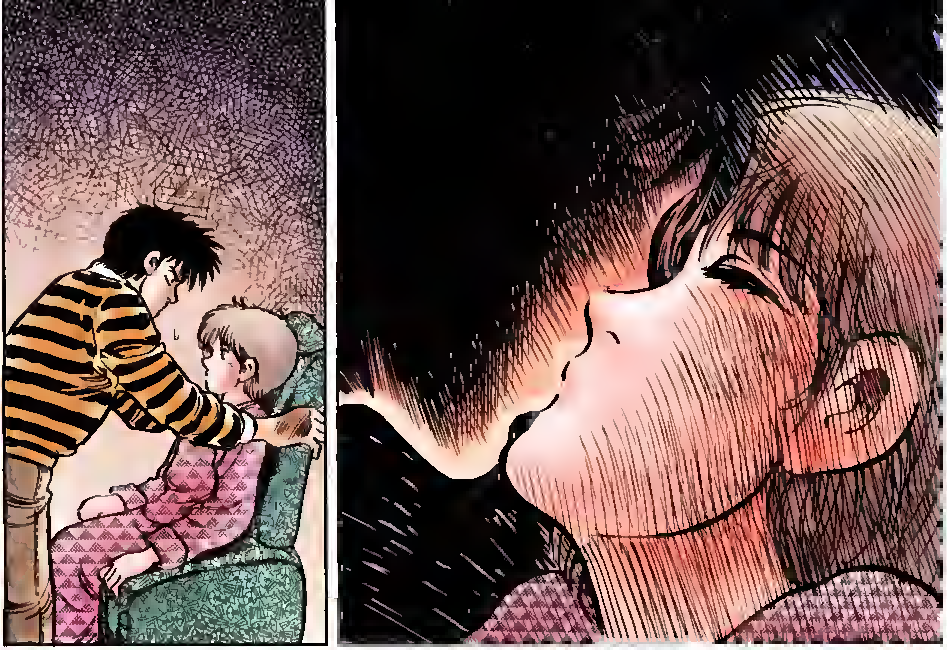

Even if the car doesn't reach the level of a McLaren or a Williams, I'd say it's got the power to secure 5th or 6th place!
As long as we do that, we can finish the race while the brakes still hold out.


Whe-
ther
he
can...
Yup... Whether Gunma can calculate the few seconds he has to use the paint...
So what it comes down to is...


...even when there are cars ahead of him...
...keep his composure and make precise cal-
culations...


Nobody gets in front of me!

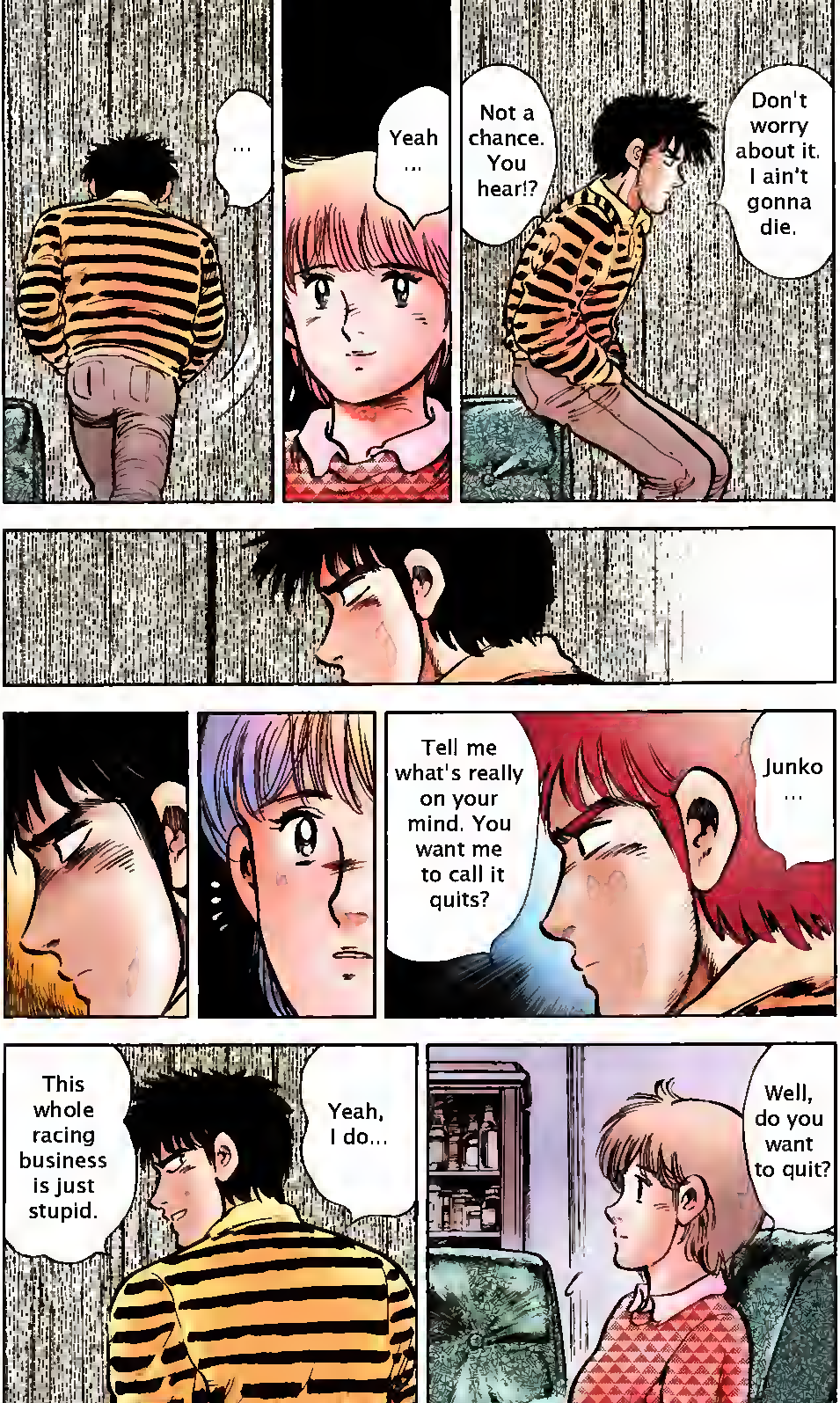

Just now. Haha!
Wh...wh en did you get to Eng- land?
Gwahahaha! Europe is pretty much my back- yard now!
G... Granny?
So... How's Junko!? How big is she now? Ohhh... I can't wait!
So what, I'm not important enough to be a part of it!?
Huh!?
Granny... I'm sorry, but we're having a really important dis- cussion right now and...
CAW
HONK
VROOM



Man, those British paparazzi can be a real pain in the ass.
It's like we're under house arrest.
YAK
YAK
YAK
Tsk...

What? Did it bother you?
...

It's 'cause of that damn prophecy Jesus started spewin'.


...
Yeah ...
Not a chance. You hear!?
Don't worry about it. I ain't gonna die.
Junko ...
Tell me what's really on your mind. You want me to call it quits?
Yeah, I do...
This whole racing business is just stupid.
Well, do you want to quit?

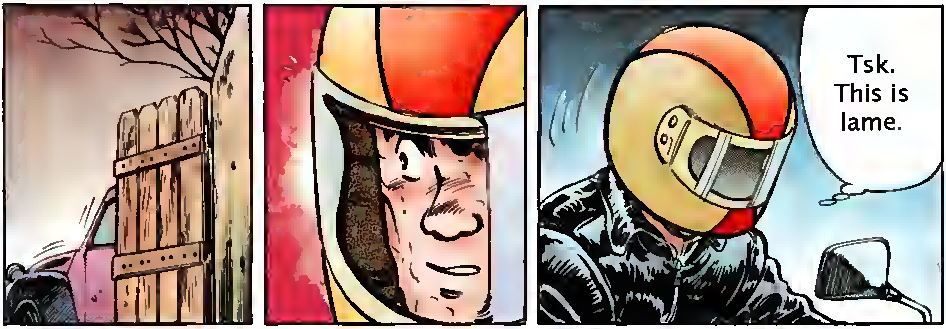
Yay!
Alright then, I quit!
Don't leave me alone here!
Then quit!
Yeah.
Guess we'll head back to Japan and I'll work for Morioka.
And we'll live a happy, peaceful life...
I'll see you off to work every morning...
Haha! And I'll be the vice president of Morioka Motors!
We'll live somewhere near Komori Manor. And we'll have a little baby...
Heh. Aw man...
First, Kindergarten. Then elementary school, and before you know it, junior high...
The little kid's gonna grow like a sprout! Heh heh...

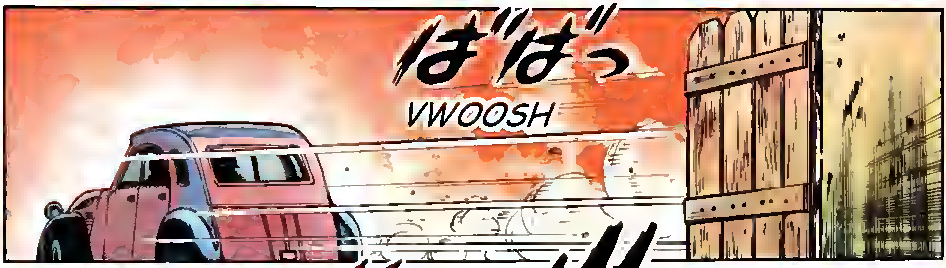
That's right... I gave up on F1, 'cause I love you too much.
...that his father gave up his dream for him...
And that child will eventually find out...
And when the child hears that...
He'll be grate-ful.
But I'm sure...
...
He'll feel very bad.
Maybe, but maybe a little annoyed too.

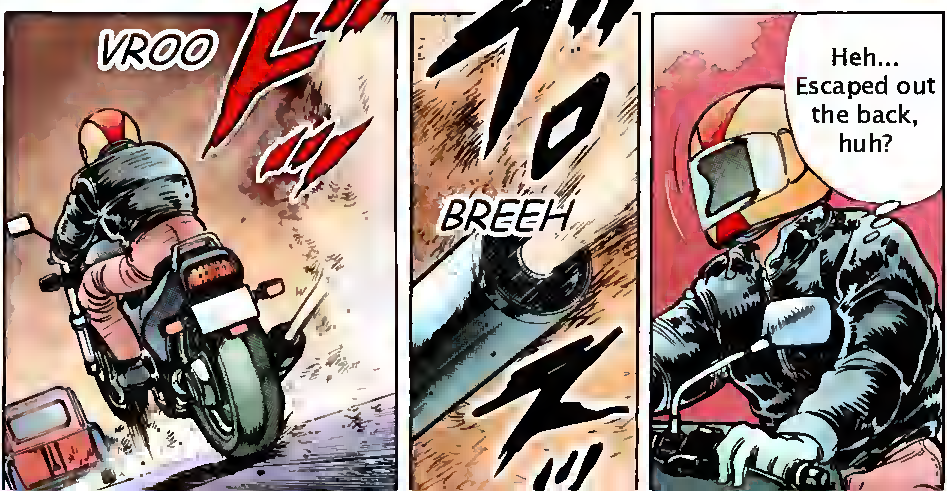
...
He'll say that I used him to stop his dad from realizing his dream...
Then, he'll start to hate me...
...
Don't let nobody get in front of you!
Race, Gunma Akagi!

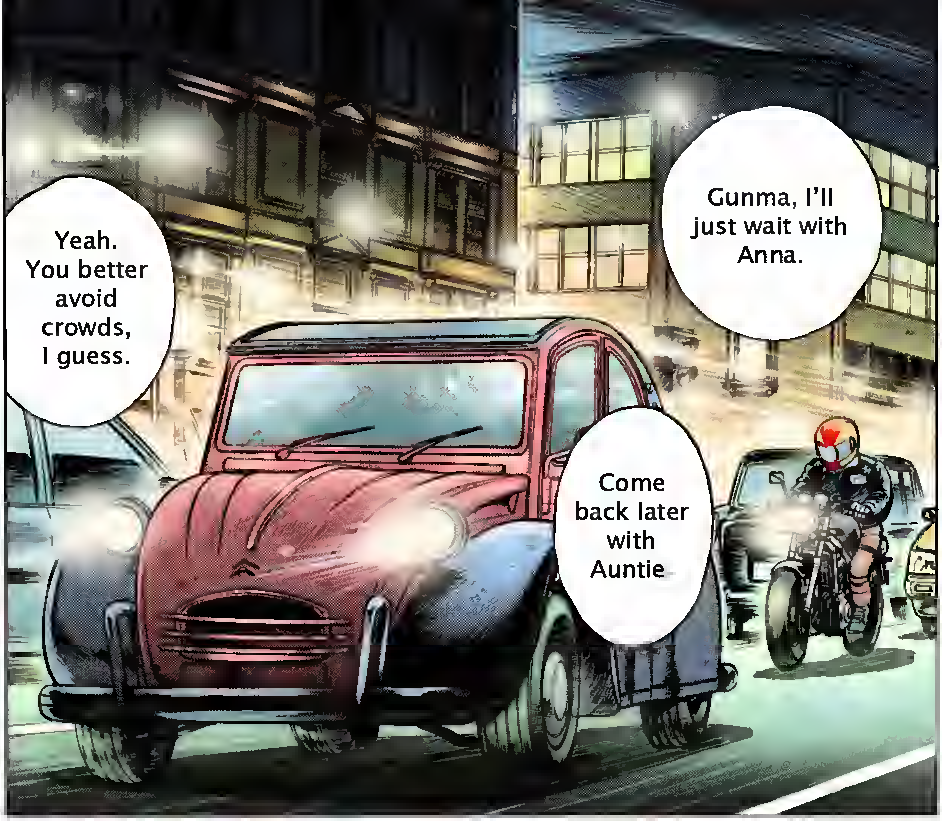
VRRROOM
VRRROOM
Heh... Not a bad house he's got here.
YAK
YAK
What!? Granny's here?
Thinks he's a big-shot. Got the press waitin' on him and all.

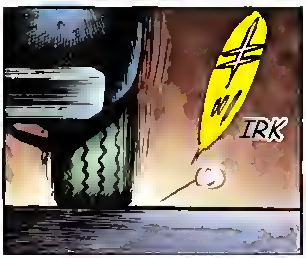
Don't worry about it. We'll just sneak out the back. Uh huh. Got it.
Yeah... The damn reporters just won't leave us alone.
All right, we'll be on our way. Which place?

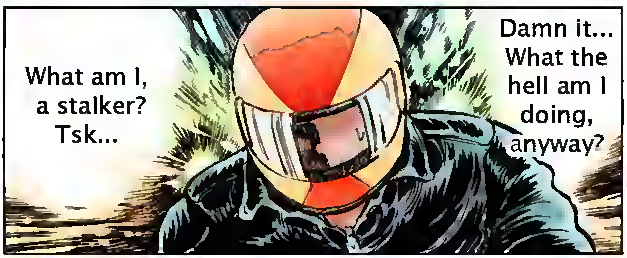

Tsk. This is lame.


ばばっ
VWOOSH


VROOOOOM
BREEH
Heh... Escaped out the back, huh?


Yeah. You better avoid crowds, I guess.
Gunma, I'll just wait with Anna.
Come back later with Auntie


IRK

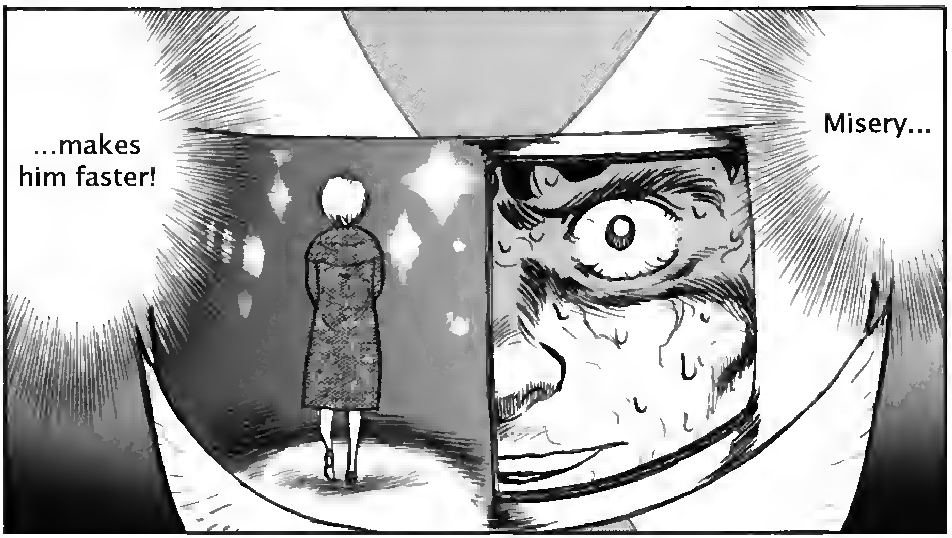

What am I, a stalker? Tsk...
Damn it... What the hell am I doing, anyway?

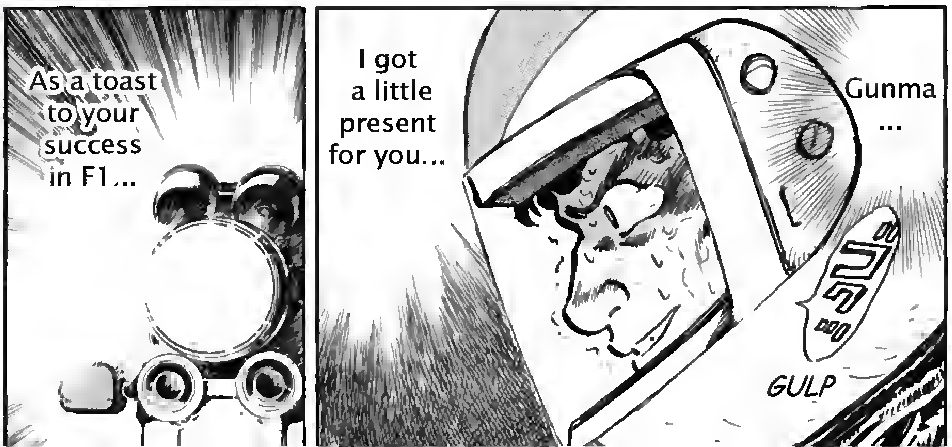
Oh... All right.

It's okay. I want to walk out-side for a bit, anyway.

Come on, I'll take you up to the house.
This is fine. I can walk from here.

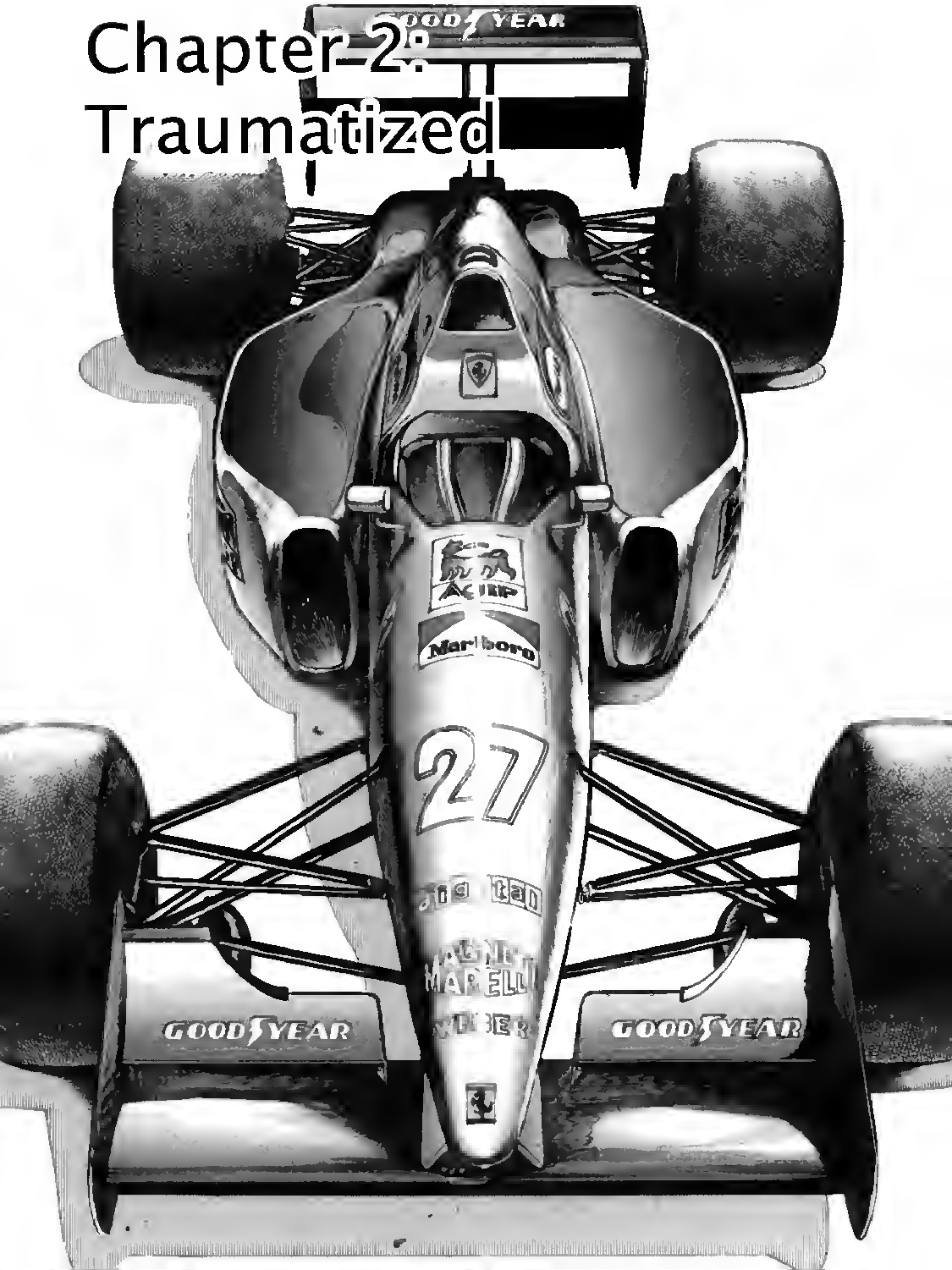
I'll see you soon.


...makes him faster!
Misery...


As a toast to your success in F1...
I got a little present for you...
Gunma ...
GULP

...I'll make you more miserable than you've ever been!
BREEEHHH

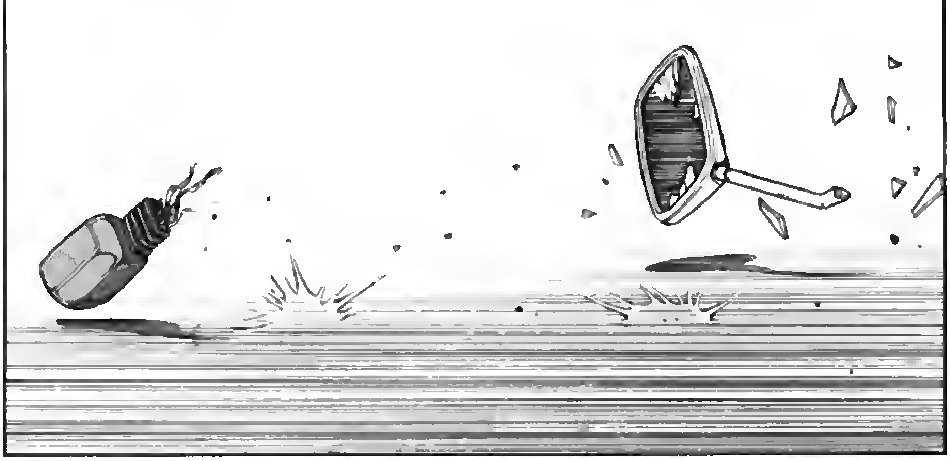
Chapter 2: Traumatized

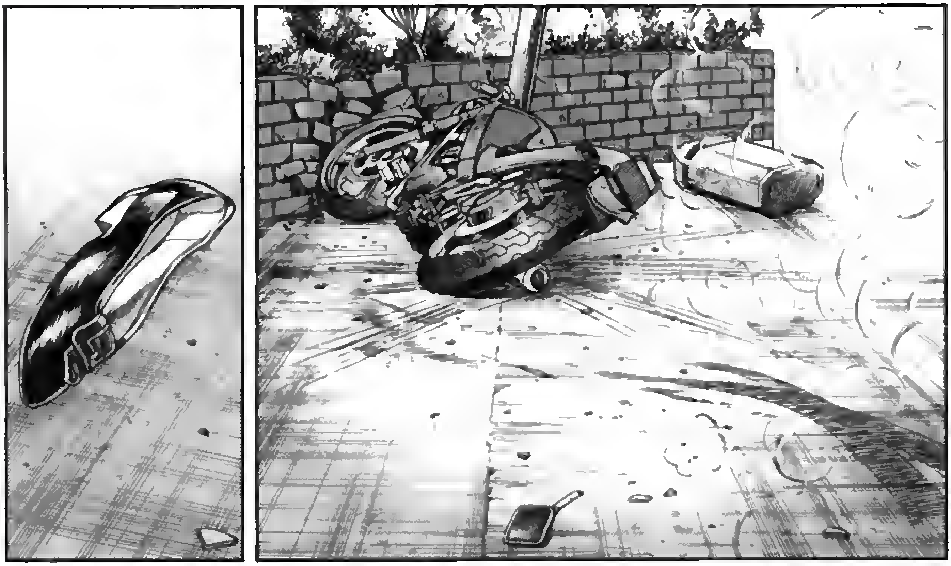


VROOM

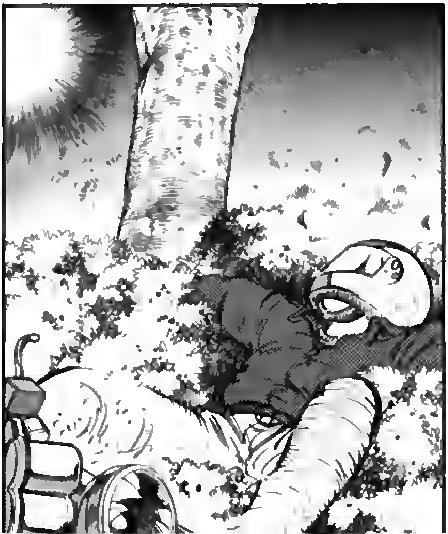
VRRRRRR

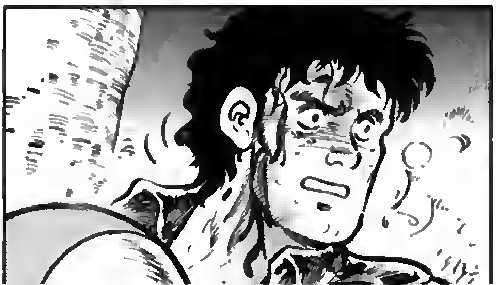
KRRRSHH

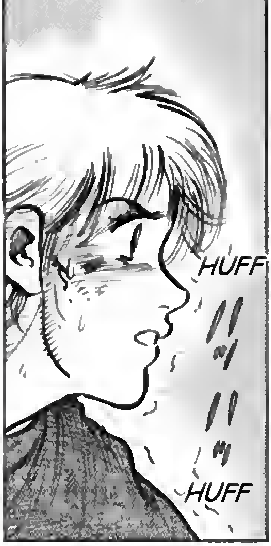


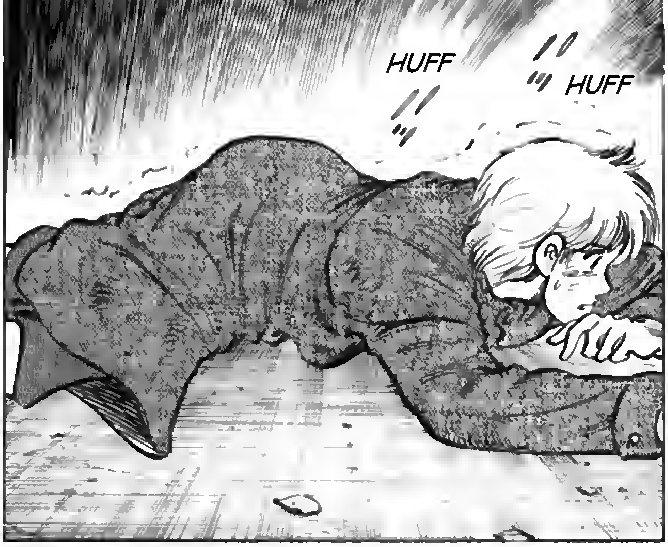


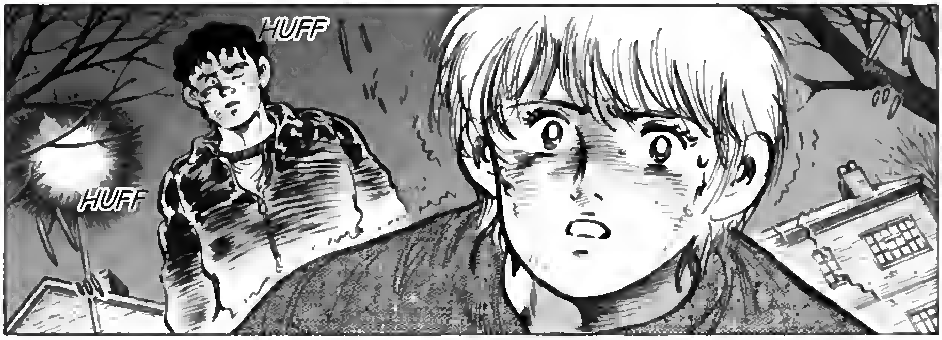
Urgh...



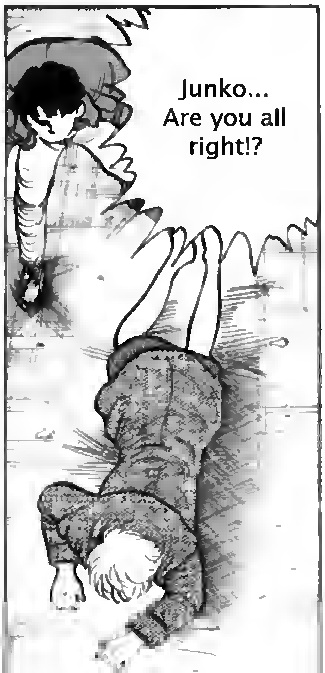



HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
HUFF

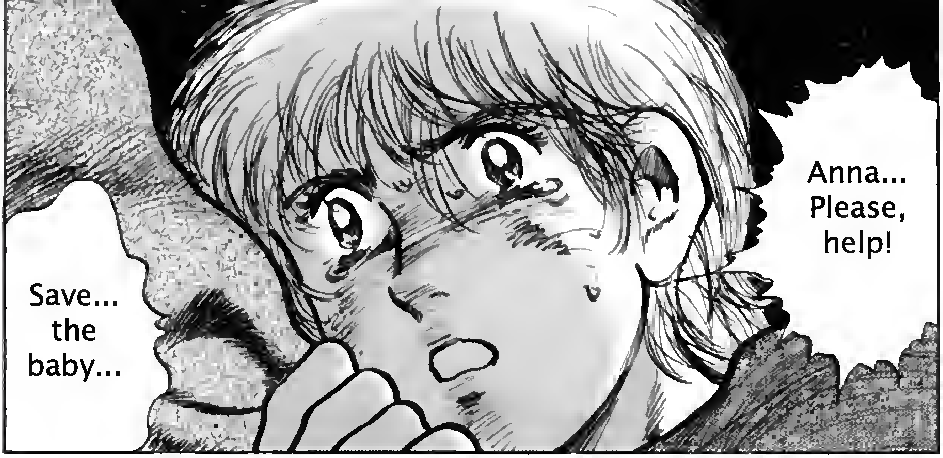

HUFF
HUFF

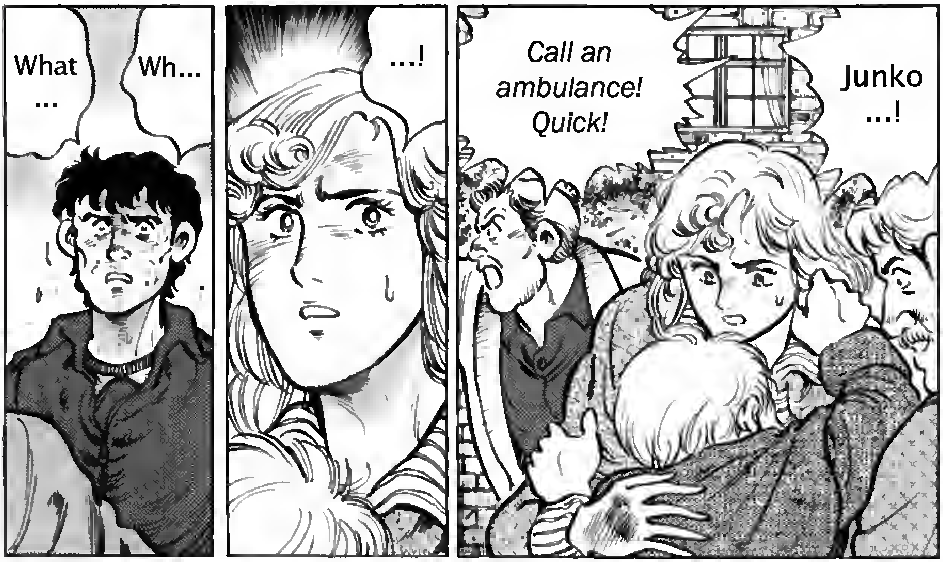
I'm... I'm gonna call the ambu-lance...
Are you hurt?
Oh god... What have I done...!


Junko... Are you all right!?

...

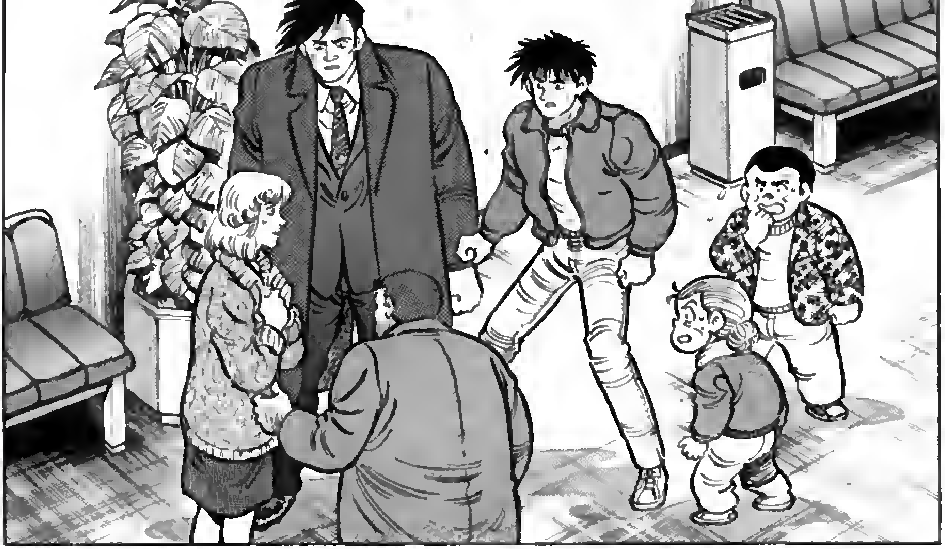
But you're hurt...
Don't come any closer...
WOBBLE
Anna...
YAK
YAK
I'll call the ambulance right away.
You're not thinking straight. You shouldn't move right now.
What in the world happened...?
Junko! Is that you!?
Ju... Junko!

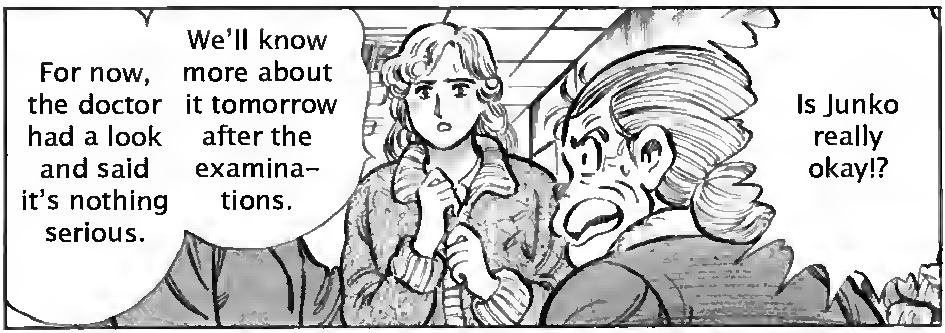

Anna... Please, help!
Save... the baby...

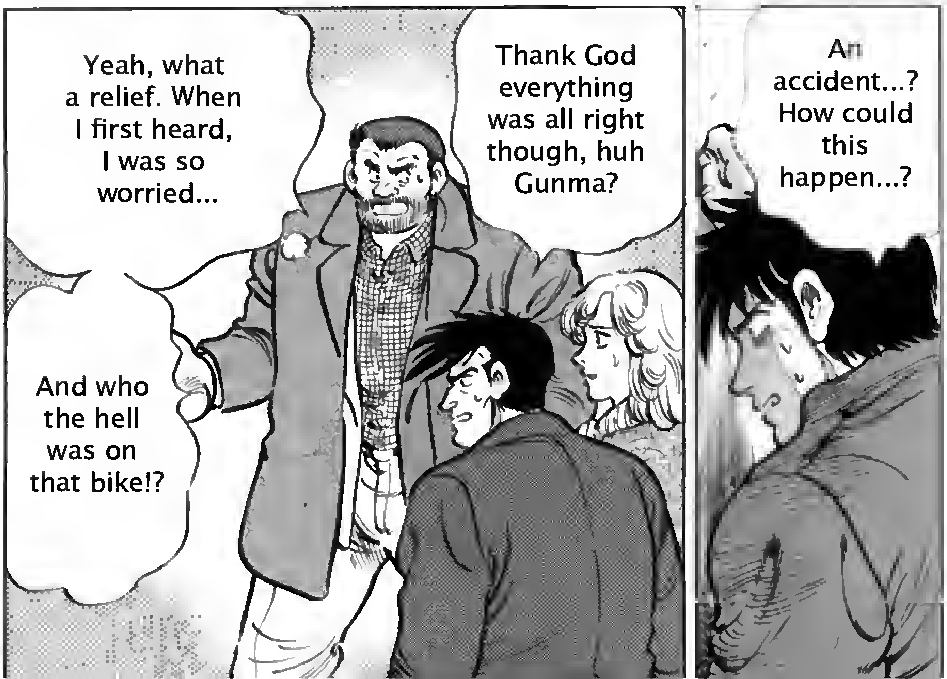

What...
Wh...
...!
Call an ambulance! Quick!
Junko ...!

YAK
YAK
YAK
I can't believe...
What have I done...?

Stay calm and listen.
The baby is fine. You hear? The baby is just fine.
You hit your hip very hard. But nothing serious.
It must have been traumatizing, but everything is okay. You're okay.




Is Junko really okay!?
We'll know more about it tomorrow after the examina-tions.
For now, the doctor had a look and said it's nothing serious.


An accident...? How could this happen...?
Thank God everything was all right though, huh Gunma?
Yeah, what a relief. When I first heard, I was so worried...
And who the hell was on that bike!?

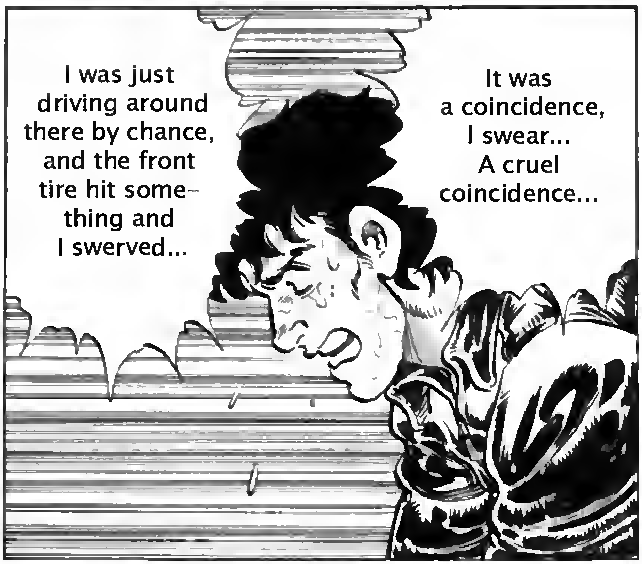
Well... It was...

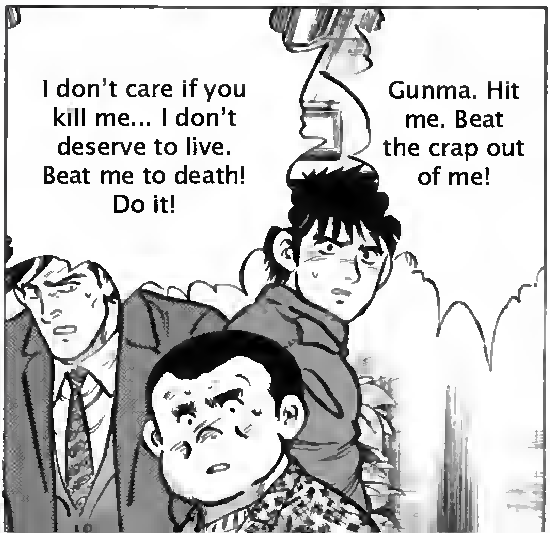
Forgive me!

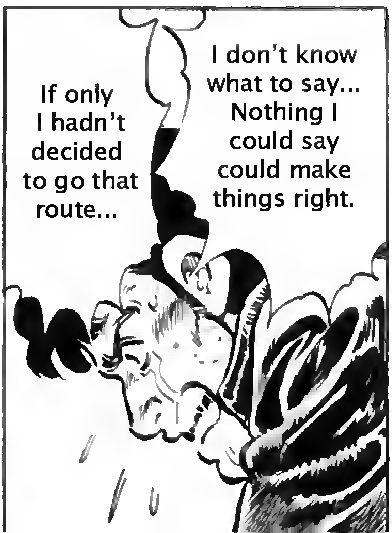
Otoya...?
It's my fault... I wasn't being careful...
Junko was hurt because of my reckless-ness...

Why the hell were you...?
You crashed into Junko...!?
It was... you...?

I can't believe something like this could happen...
And Junko... She was...


I was just driving around there by chance, and the front tire hit something and I swerved...
It was a coincidence, I swear... A cruel coincidence...

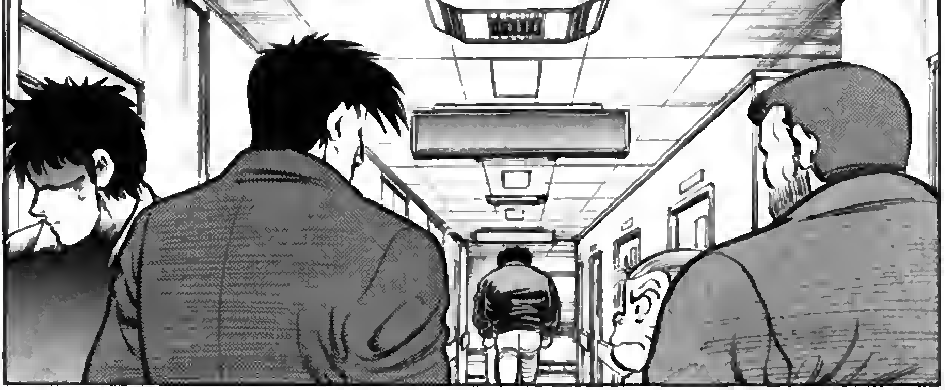

I don't care if you kill me... I don't deserve to live. Beat me to death! Do it!
Gunma. Hit me. Beat the crap out of me!


If only I hadn't decided to go that route...
I don't know what to say... Nothing I could say could make things right.

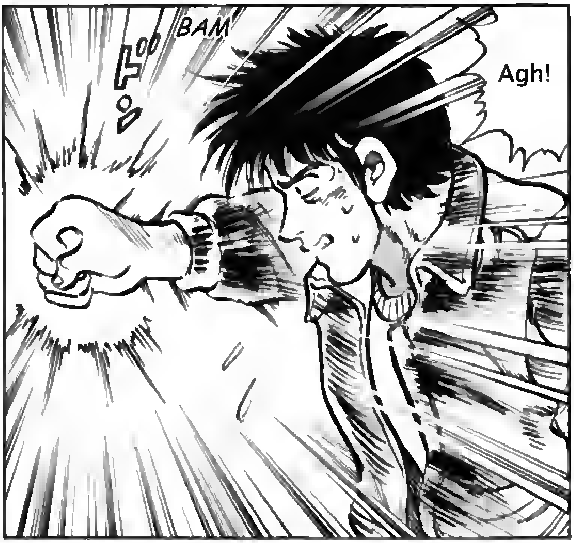
I don't ever wanna see yer face no more!
Piss off!
But I...
But...
GULP
...
Ugh... Grahhhhh!

...
Get out!
I told you to get the hell out of my face! Junko is fine!
No way!
After what I've done... to your precious Junko...!
Please... You have to punish me. Beat me to a pulp! Otherwise I'll...

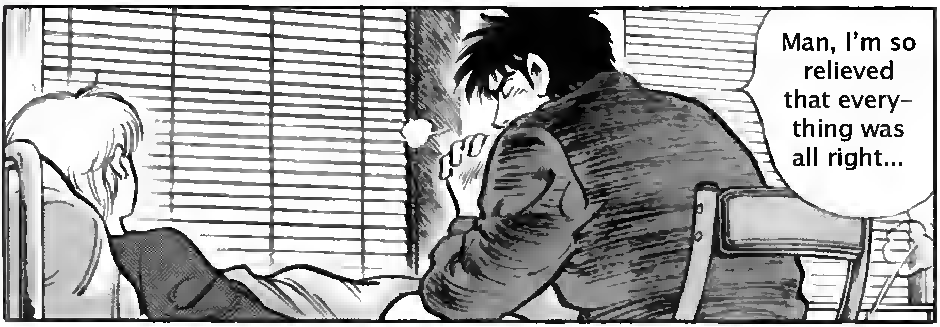
Plea-
se...
Let me
apologize to
Junko...
At least...
Let me...
...
I don't
want you
anywhere
near her!
Junko is
sleeping.
...
Man, I'm
nothing
but
trouble,
aren't I?
That's
what you
want,
right?
I got it...
I'll leave
then...

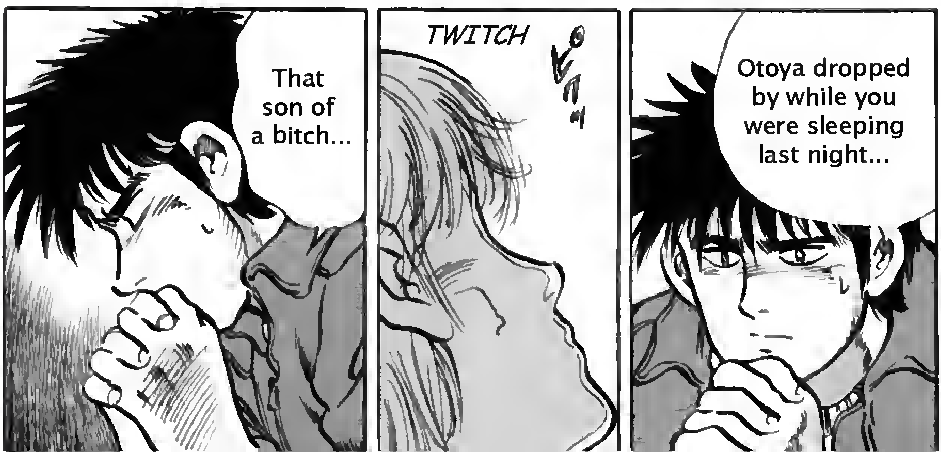


PAT
...


BAM
Agh!

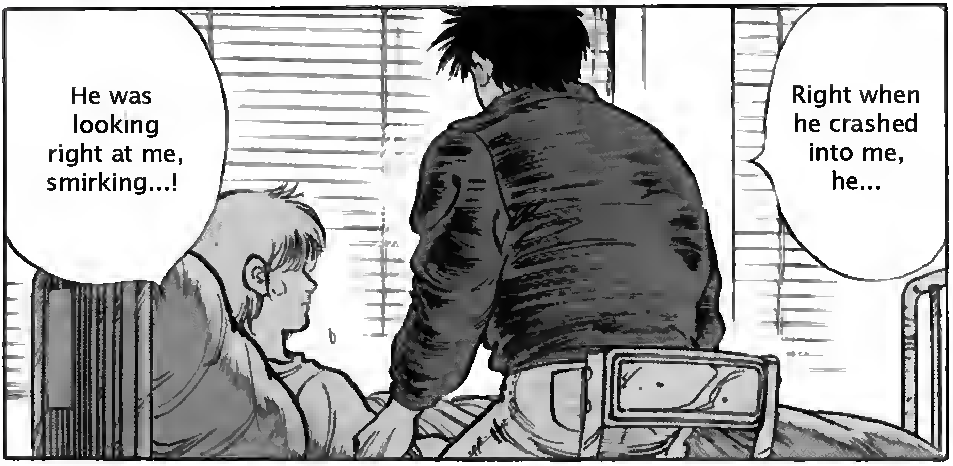
...
...


Man, I'm so relieved that every-thing was all right...

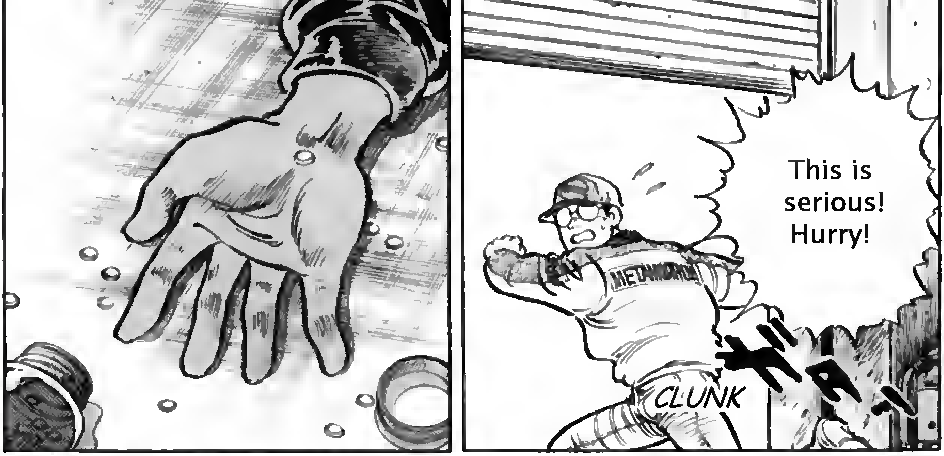

That son of a bitch...
TWITCH
Otoya dropped by while you were sleeping last night...

...
Even if it was an accident!
If anything had happened to you... I would have killed that bastard, I swear...
...?
Of course.
I don't care what happens. I'm going to protect this baby no matter what...
Does it hurt?
Well, the doctor said they'll do a thorough examination, but everything looks all right.
Something botherin' you?
Junko? What's wrong?

What!?
It wasn't an acci-dent.
No one's gonna try to attack you. That was just an accident.
Don't worry. Every-thing will be fine.

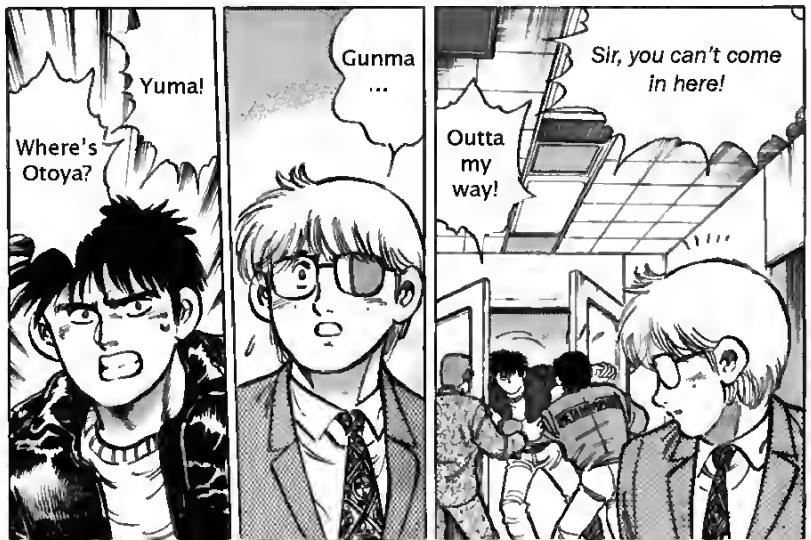

He was looking right at me, smirking...!
Right when he crashed into me, he...

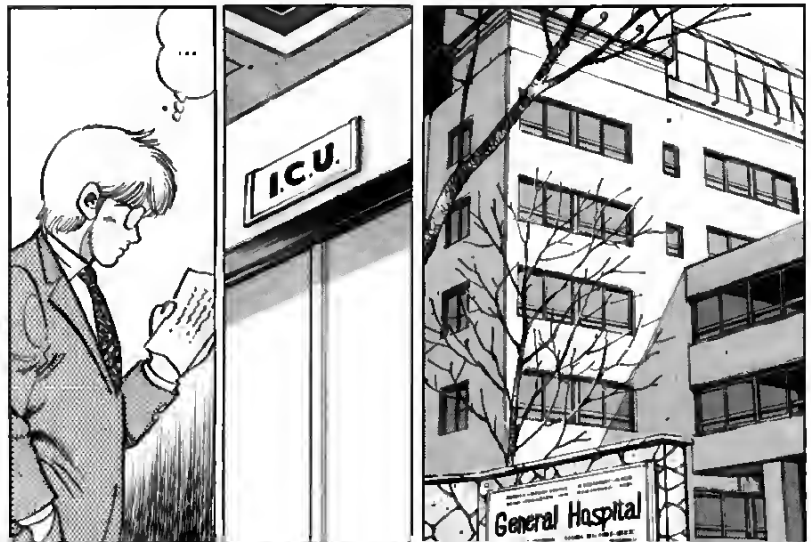
Whoa! Someone get in here quick!
METAMORPHOSE
RACING TC
METAMORPHOSE
RACING TC


This is serious! Hurry!
CLUNK

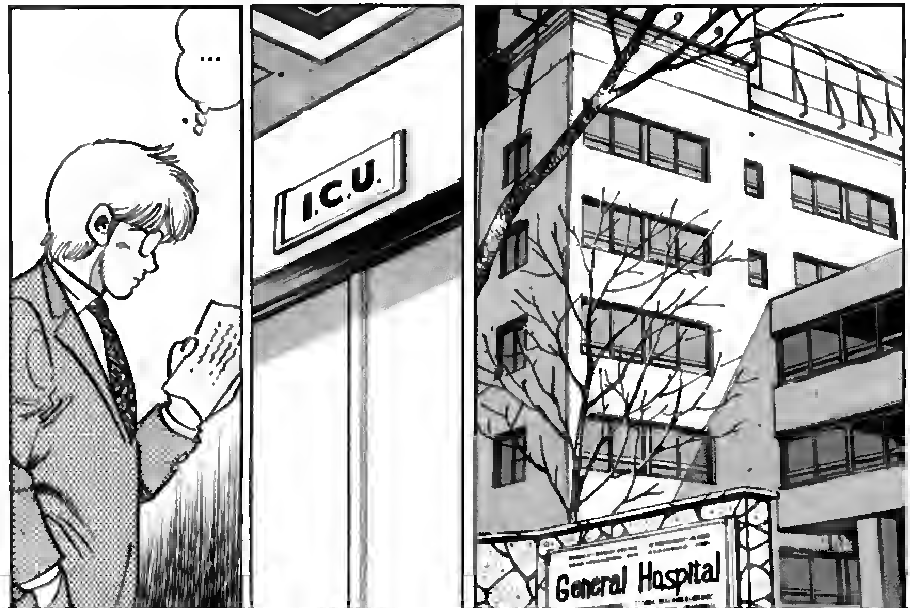
It's all my fault.
Forgive me.
Please forgive me.
Chapter 3:
Past the Limit
I have no right to go on living any longer.
Please just let me die.
Forgive me. Please forgive me.

Chapter 3:
Past the Limit

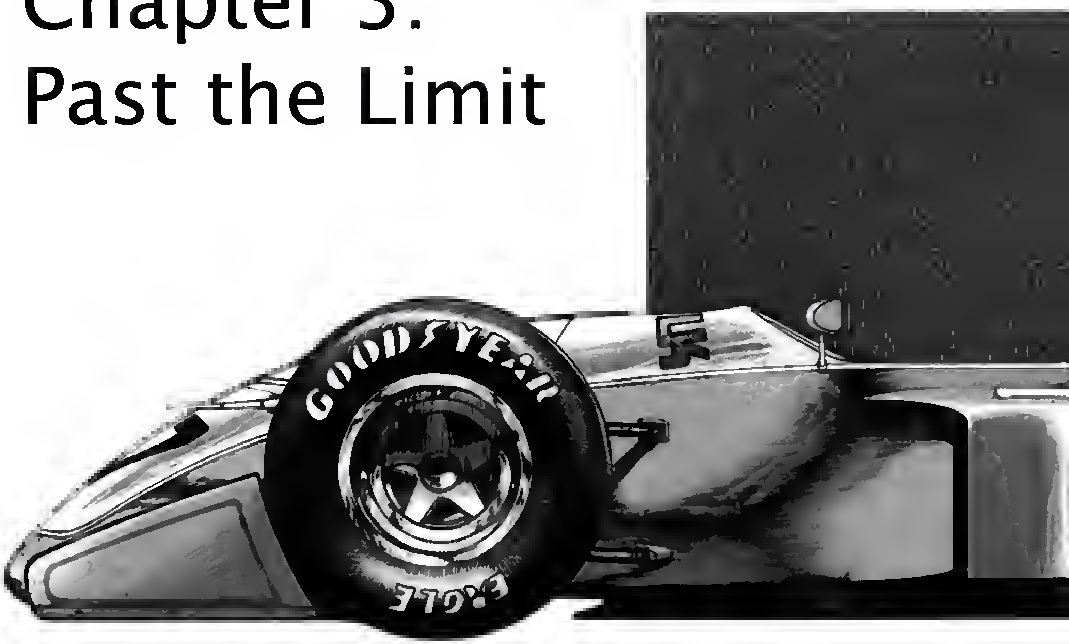


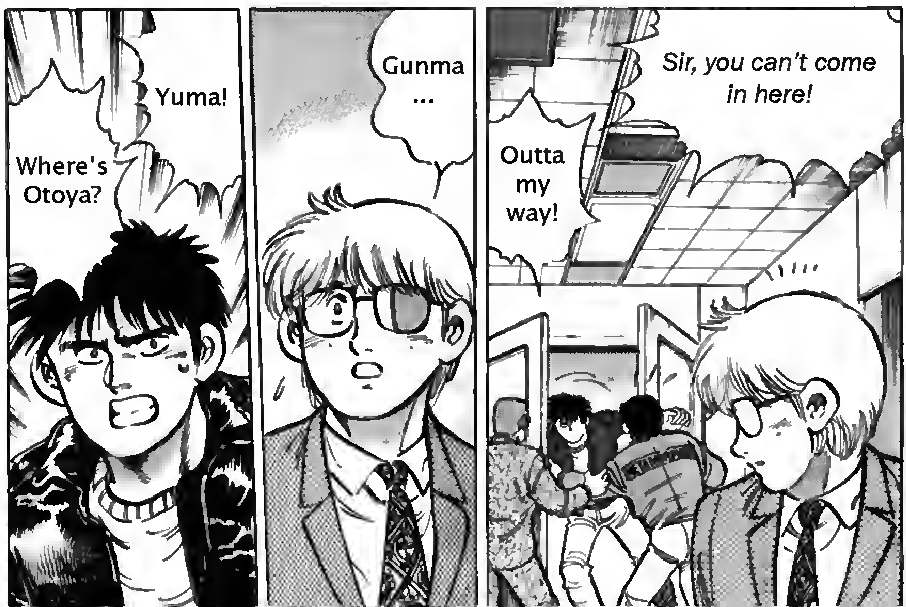


SILK
PIAA
37
NGK
SHOEI
GOODYEAR
EAGLE
Shell
KOKE
HEISEI


...
I.C.U.
General Hospital

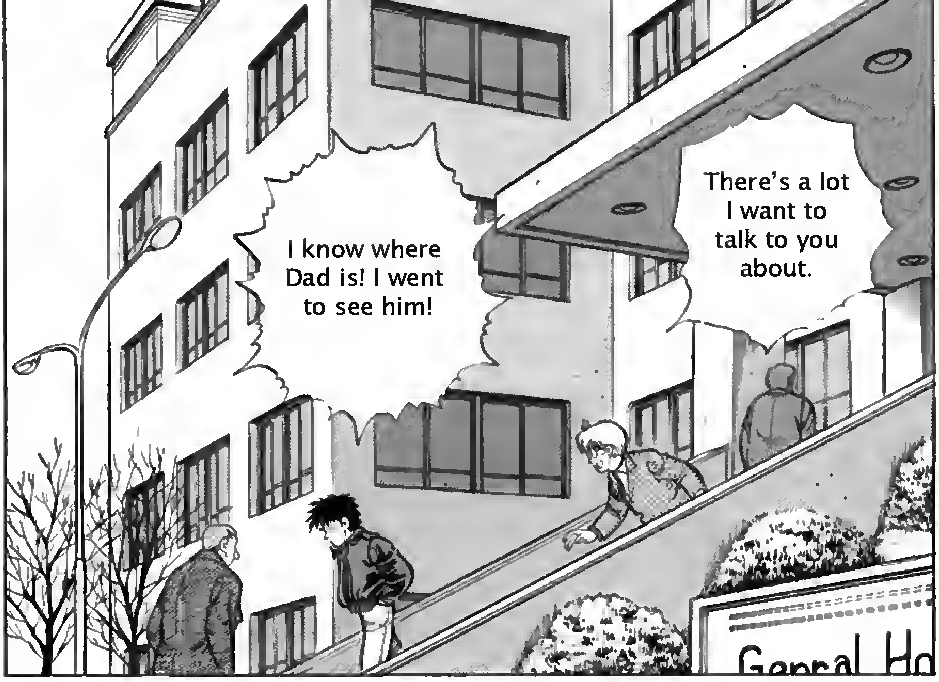
Chapter 3: Past the Limit



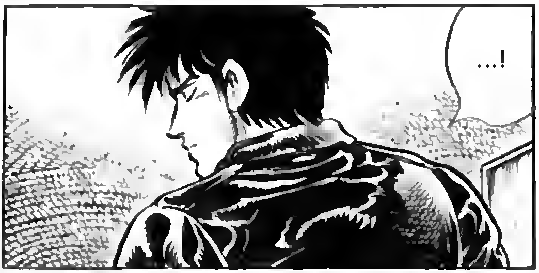


I.C.U.
He left this note.
He over-dosed!?
No Adm
the persons
He was found in the garage this morning, overdosed on pills.
What hap-pened?
Forgive me. Please forgive me.
I can't believe this happened... How's Junko?
She's all right. She'll make it through.
More importantly... I wanted to apologize to you, about what happened.
Luckily, someone found him before it was too late.

He'd already been through a series of mishaps, and then the accident happened. I guess he just couldn't recover from the trauma.
He thought the only way to redeem himself would be to kill himself.
So Otoya tried to overdose because he felt guilty about what happened with Junko?
I think so.
He was sneering at me through his helmet!
...
...with him in this condition, that wouldn't be so classy, would it?
Tsk. Thought I'd come give Otoya a good beatin', but...
Is Junko overthinking this...?
What the hell does that mean!?
Wait... Hold on, Gunma...


I know where Dad is! I went to see him!
There's a lot I want to talk to you about.

How's he doin'?
Huh.


...!

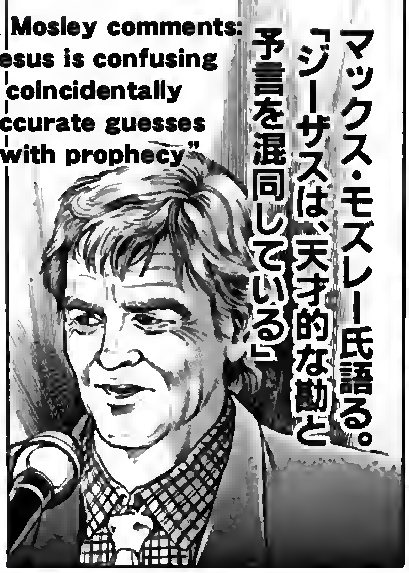
...!?

I have a feeling I'll be seeing him at some point too!

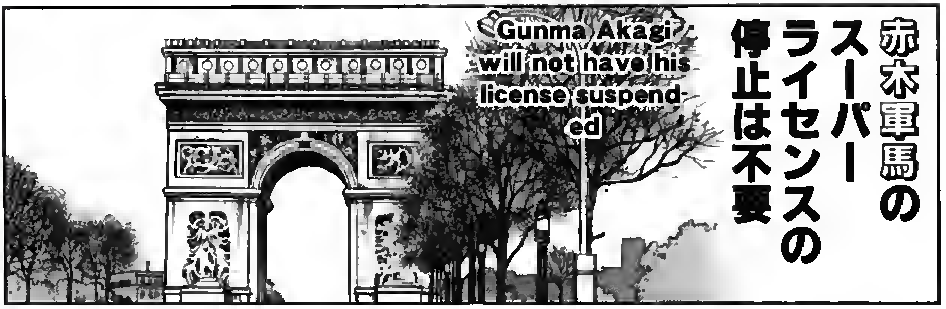
He's good. Well, that's what I wanted to talk about...
Yeah. We'll talk about it later.

Sorry bud, I gotta go.
Come on, Gunma! Just for a bit! Let's grab a coffee and...
I also wanted to talk to you about how Shoma joined our team...
...and that so-called prophecy Jesus made...
I want to be with Junko as much as possible.
I gotta go.
DASH
Gun-ma!

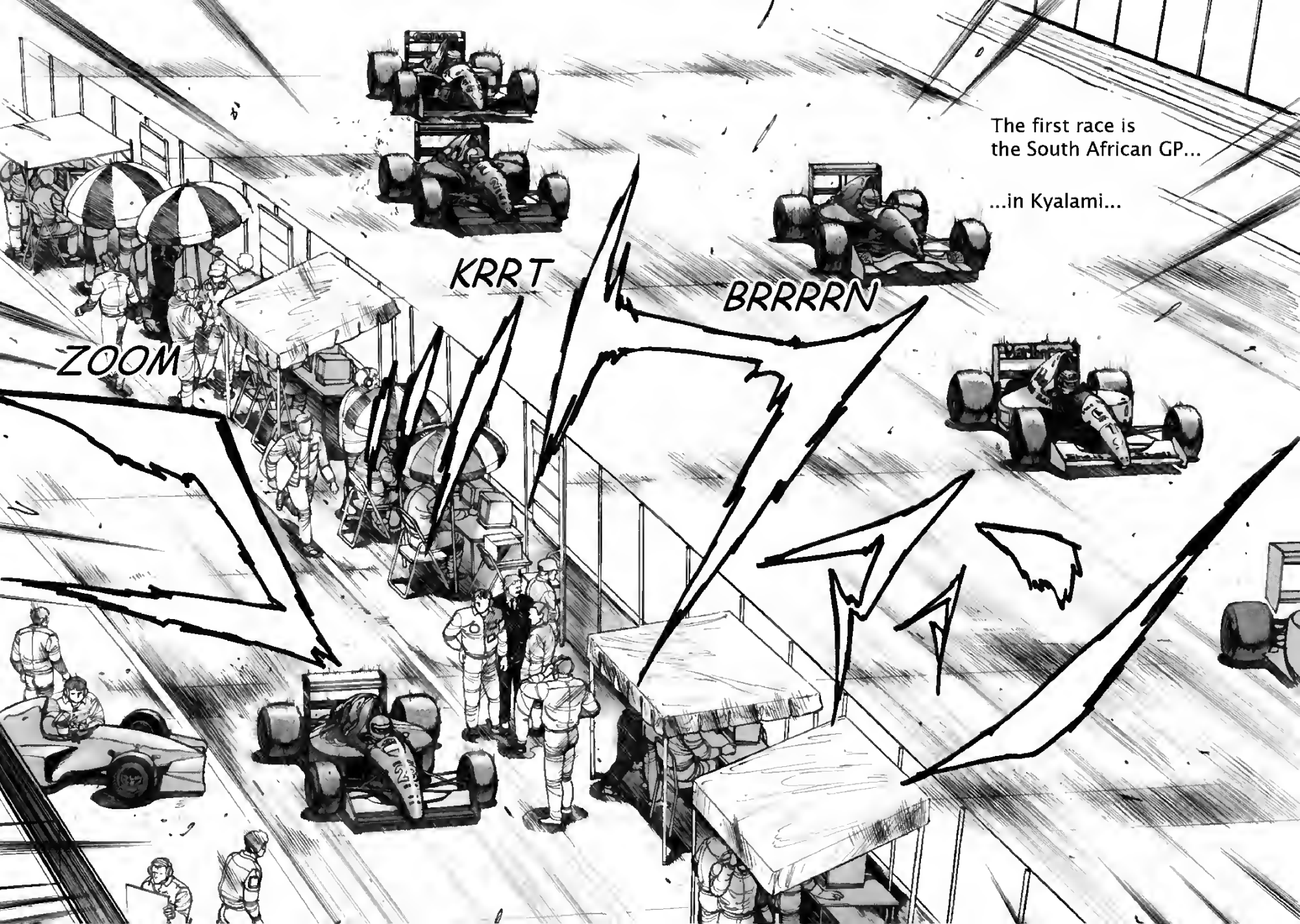
THE ATLANTIC

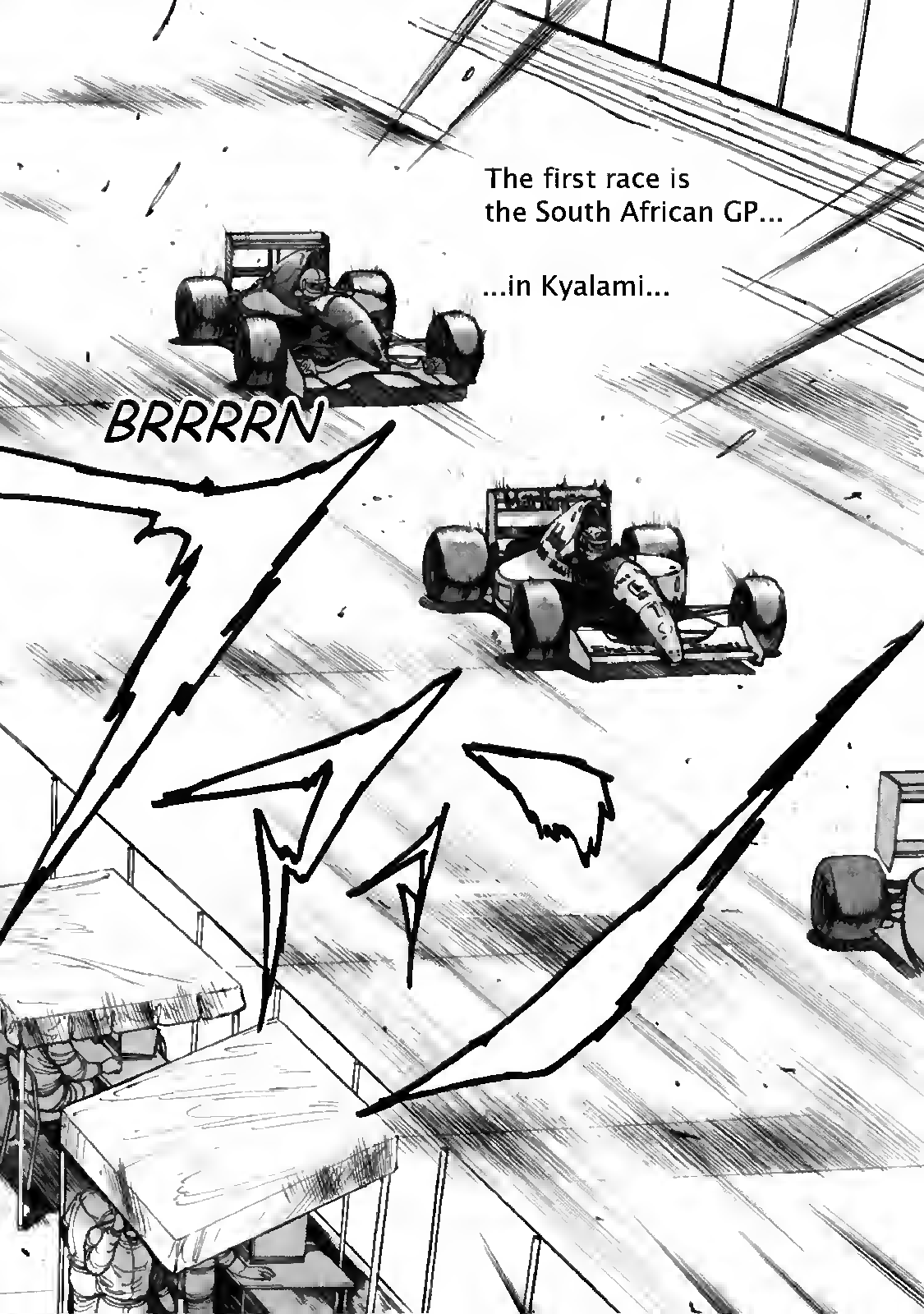

Max Mosley comments:
"Jesus is confusing coincidentally accurate guesses with prophecy"
マックス・モズレー氏語る。
「ジーザスは、天才的な勘と
予言を混同している」

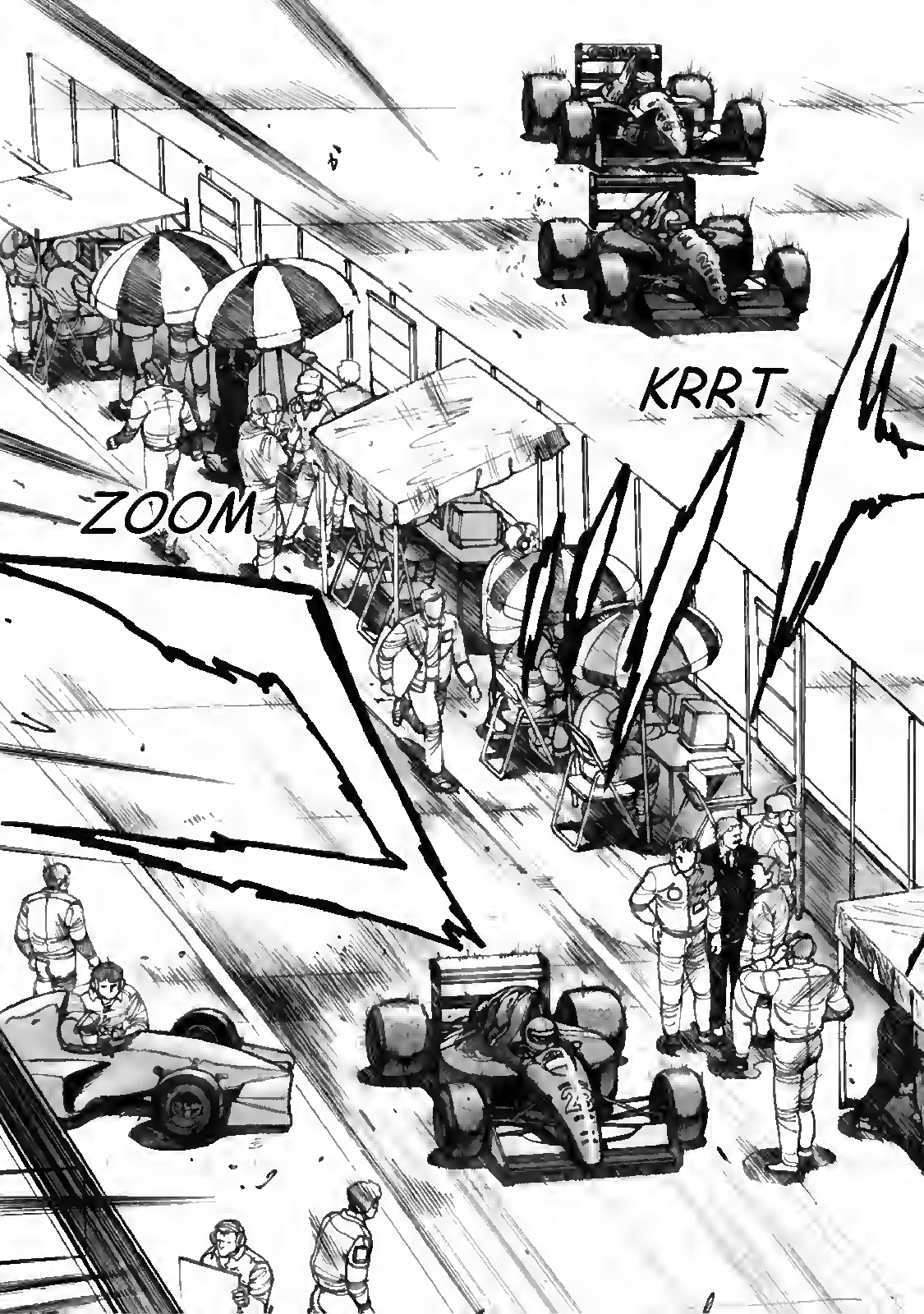
FISA dismisses Jesus' case
「FISA
ジーザスの提訴を棄却」

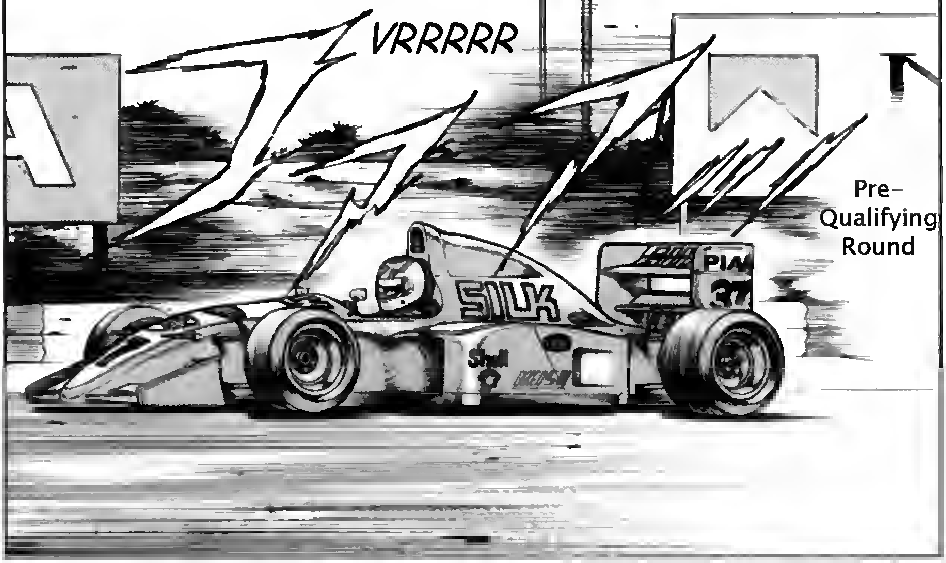

Gunma Akagi will not have his license suspended
赤木軍馬の
スーパー
ライセンスの
停止は不要

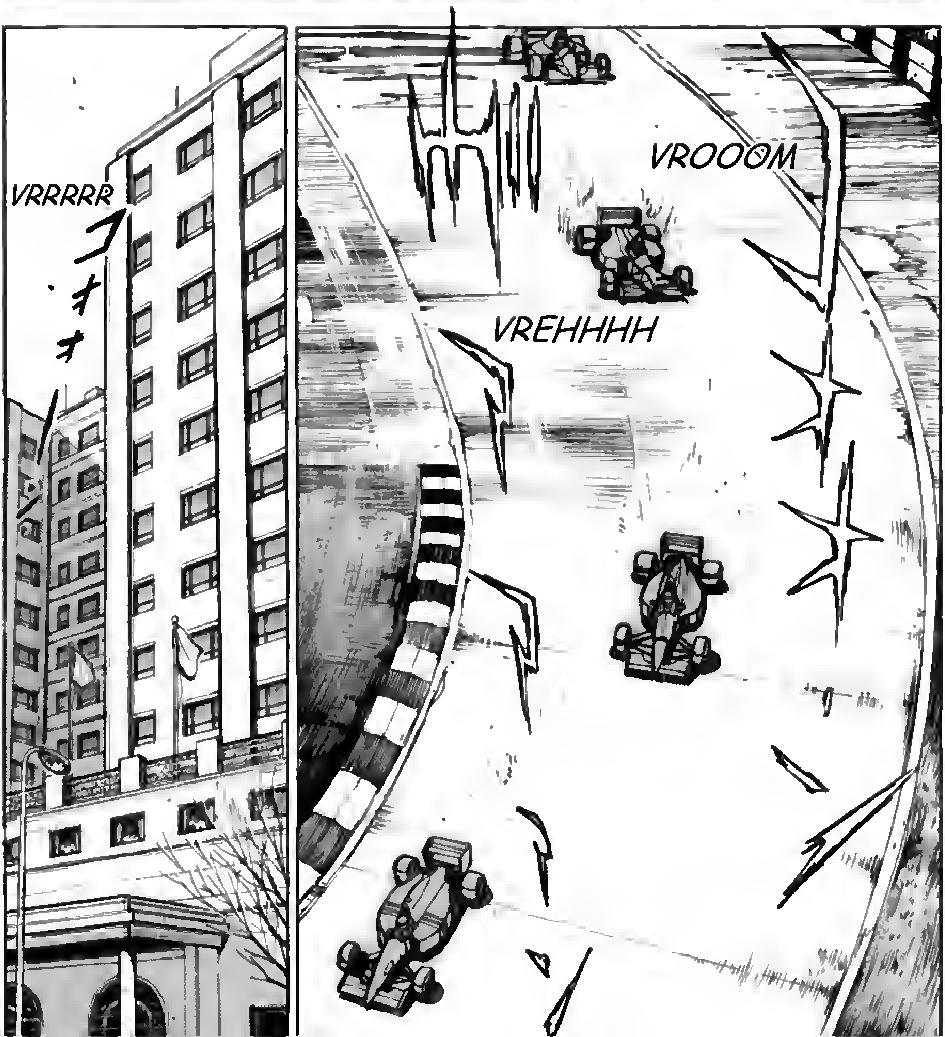
On February 27th, 1992, the F1 Cham-pionship begins...
KYALAMI PARK


The first race is
the South African GP...
...in Kyalami...
KRRT
BRRRRN
ZOOM

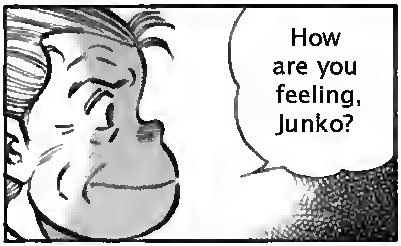

The first race is
the South African GP...
...in Kyalami...
BRRRRN

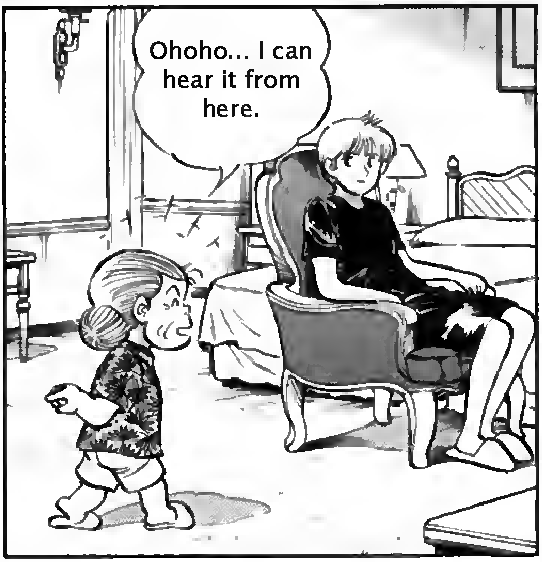

KRRT
ZOOM

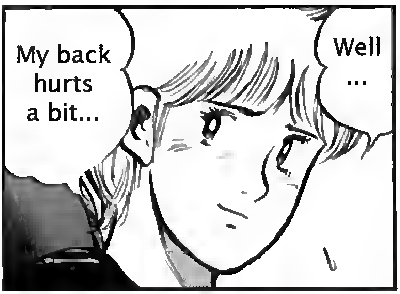

VRRRRR
Pre-
Qualifying
Round
SILK
PIA
37


VRRRRR
ゴォォ
VROOOM
VREHHHH

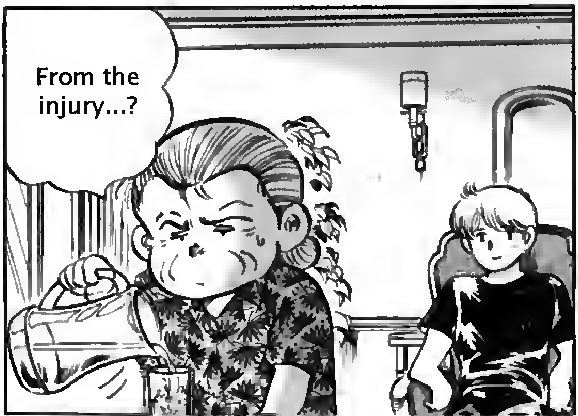
VRRRRR
IRK
IRK
IRK
There... we... go!
KUNK


How are you feeling, Junko?


Ohoho... I can hear it from here.

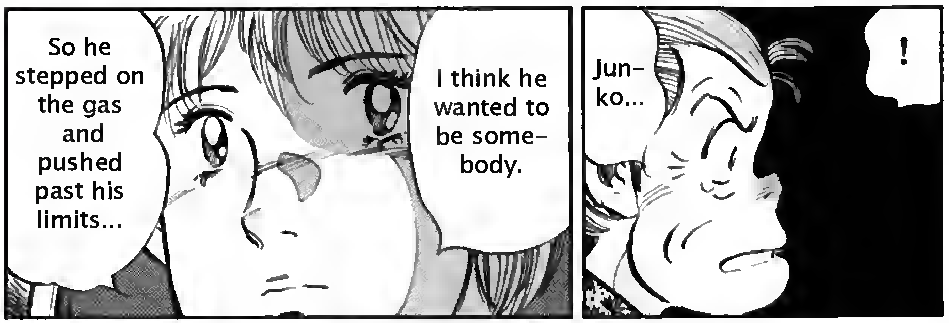

My back hurts a bit...
Well ...

I'm okay, Auntie. Don't worry about me.
Sigh ...

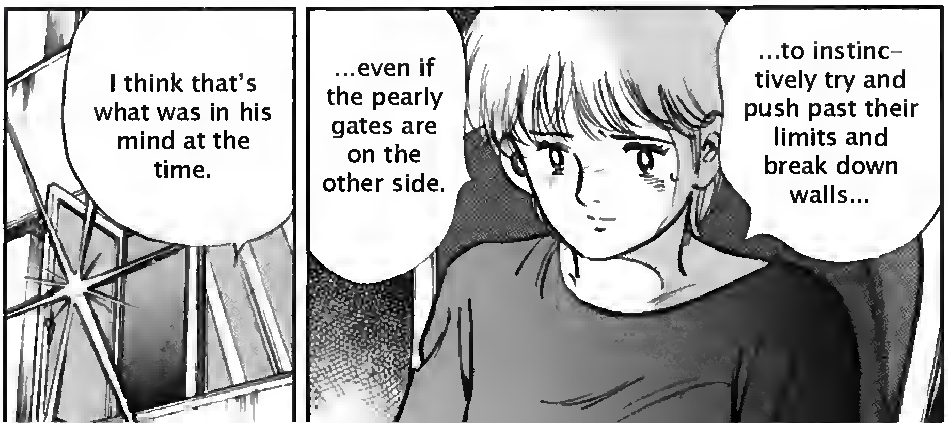

From the injury...?

See?
Urgh...
No. You can't push yourself, dear!
I could even go to the circuit as long as I don't walk around too much.
...
I'm sure he's breezing right through it.
I wonder how Gunma's doing. Do you think he'll qualify?
Ju...
Gunma should at least have the chance to see the baby...
...the-re's the Mona-co GP.
...on the day my baby's due...
In June...
What's important is that you give birth to a healthy baby.

...I understand why Ryuji had to die now...
I think...
Listen, Auntie.
Don't talk like that!


So he stepped on the gas and pushed past his limits...
I think he wanted to be some-body.
Jun-ko...
!

...but men can't. So they're destined...
Women can give birth to children...


I think that's what was in his mind at the time.
...even if the pearly gates are on the other side.
...to instinc-tively try and push past their limits and break down walls...

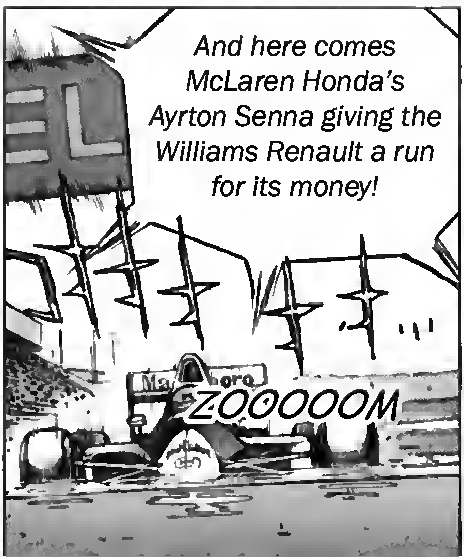
ZOOOOM
VRRROM
WOOSH
PARI
KRT
KRT
FWOOSH

KACHIK
Who is it?
KNOCK
KNOCK

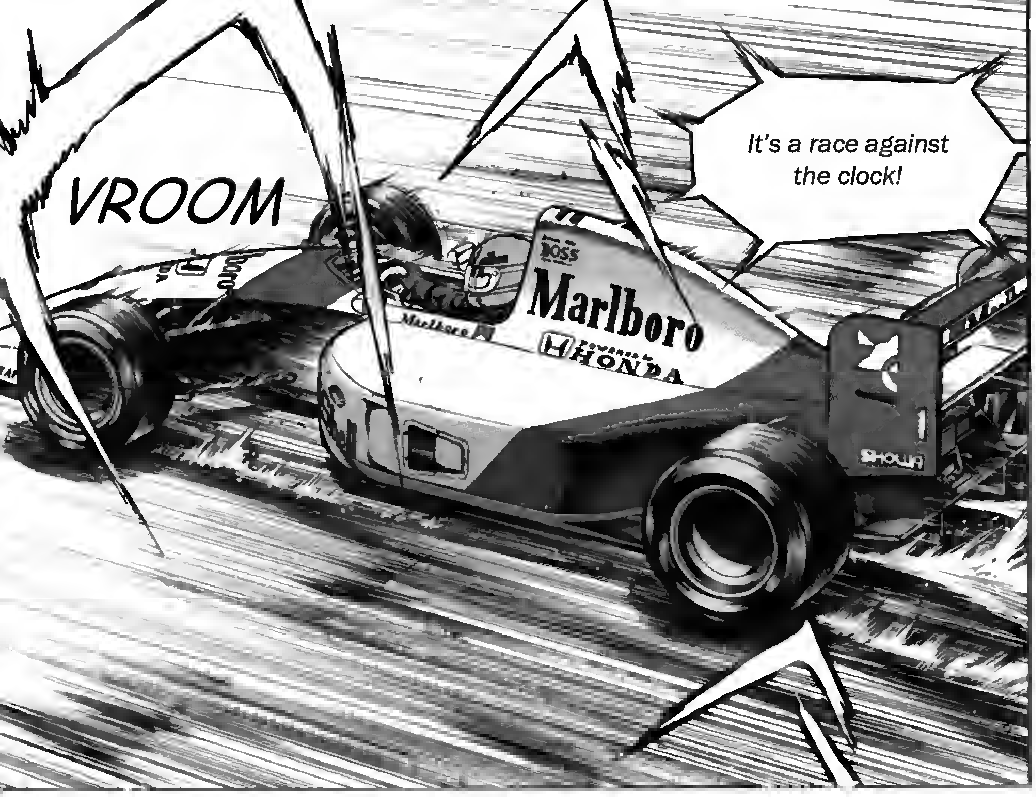
VROOH
All right, he's making good time!
Junko...
Don't let him in!
I don't want to see him...
FSHOO
...
FWOOP
Hey, stop that, you...

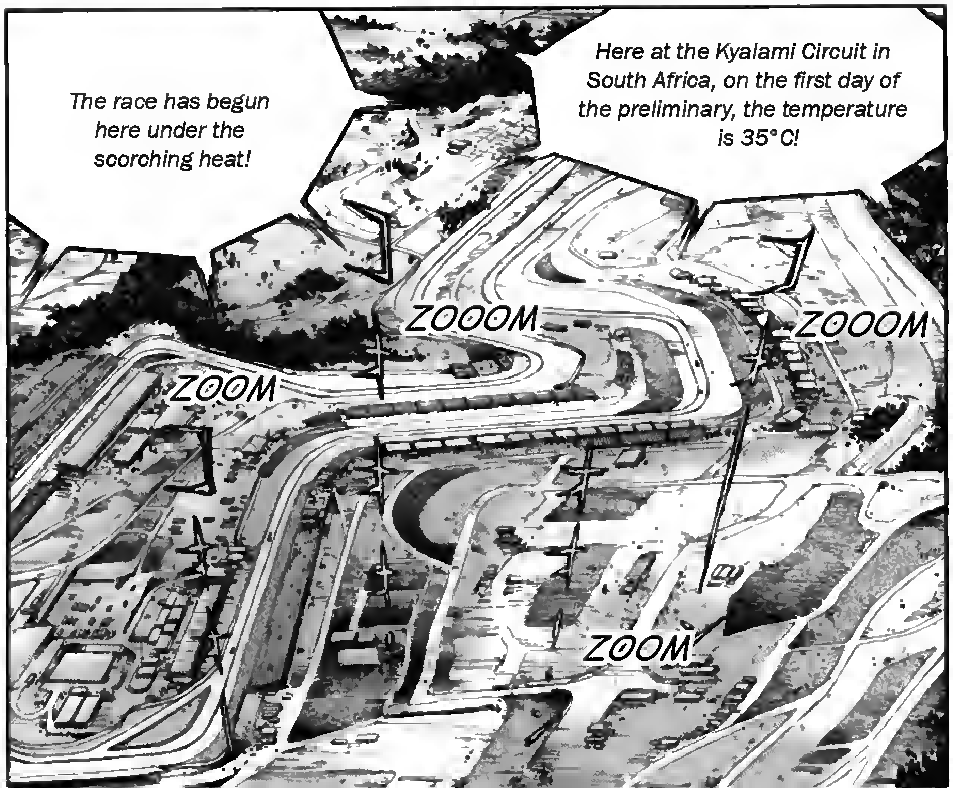
Chapter 4: Unwanted Visitor

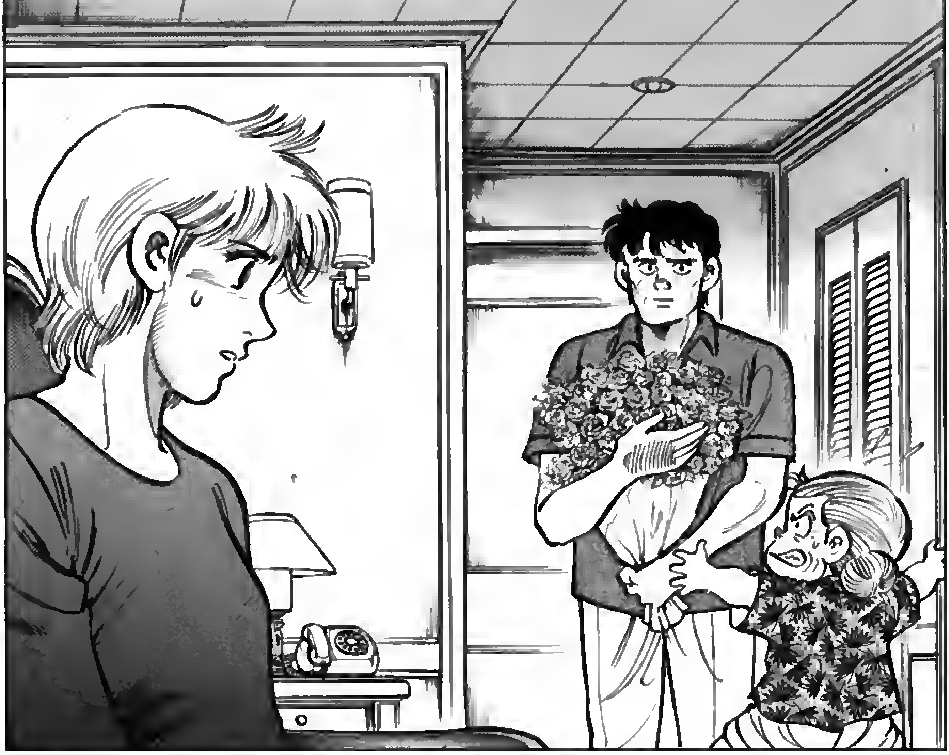
Nigel Mansell has put out a record time!
ZOOOOM
Canon
elf
RENAULT

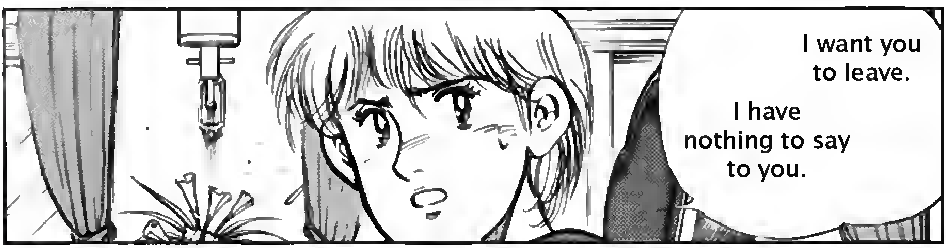

And here comes McLaren Honda's Ayrton Senna giving the Williams Renault a run for its money!
ZOOOOOM

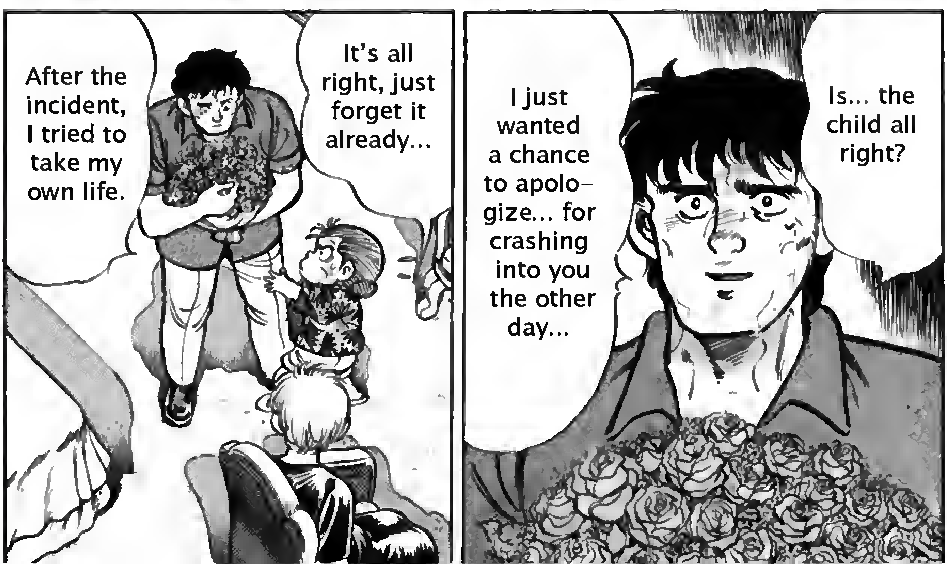
He's just about secured pole position!
FOOM
PAGES


VROOM
It's a race against the clock!
Marlboro
HONDA


The race has begun here under the scorching heat!
Here at the Kyalami Circuit in South Africa, on the first day of the preliminary, the temperature is 35°C!
ZOOOM
ZOOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM



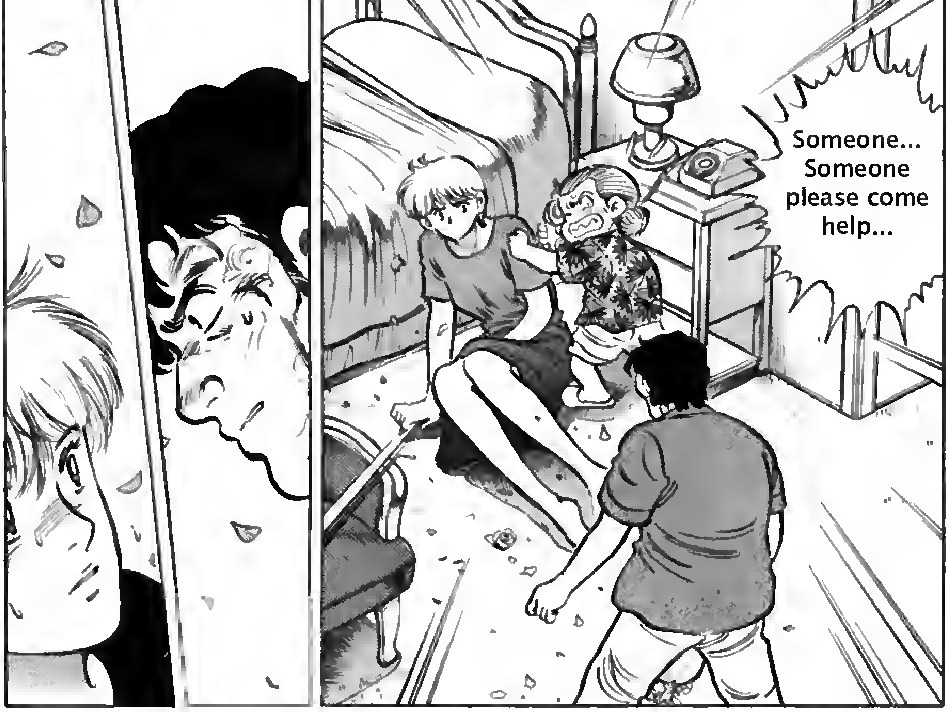

I want you to leave.
I have nothing to say to you.

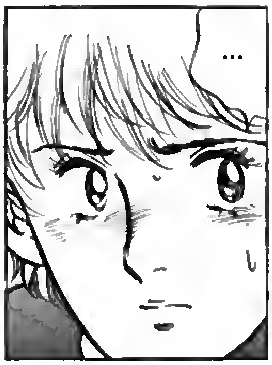

After the incident, I tried to take my own life.
It's all right, just forget it already...
I just wanted a chance to apologize... for crashing into you the other day...
Is... the child all right?

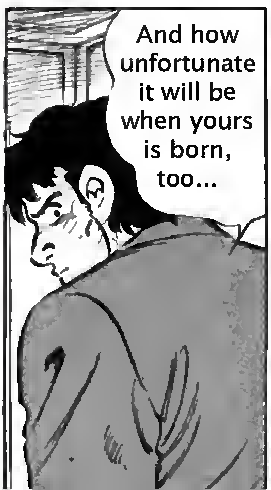
After that, I decided to muster up the courage to come and apologize to you.
But I survived. I was discovered before it was too late and I was taken to the hospital.
And nothing happened to Junko's child.
...
Hey, young man. Junko hasn't completely recovered yet. Would you mind backing off?
We understand how you feel.
...!?
May I... put my hand on your belly for a moment?
Please, Junko... I just want to see for myself that your child is truly all right.

Please, Junko.
Just for a second.
Please ...
Young man!
KA TUNK
A...Auntie ...
Cut it out!
Get out!
Knock it off!
Come on. Just for a second...

WHACK
...
Junko!
Ahh...

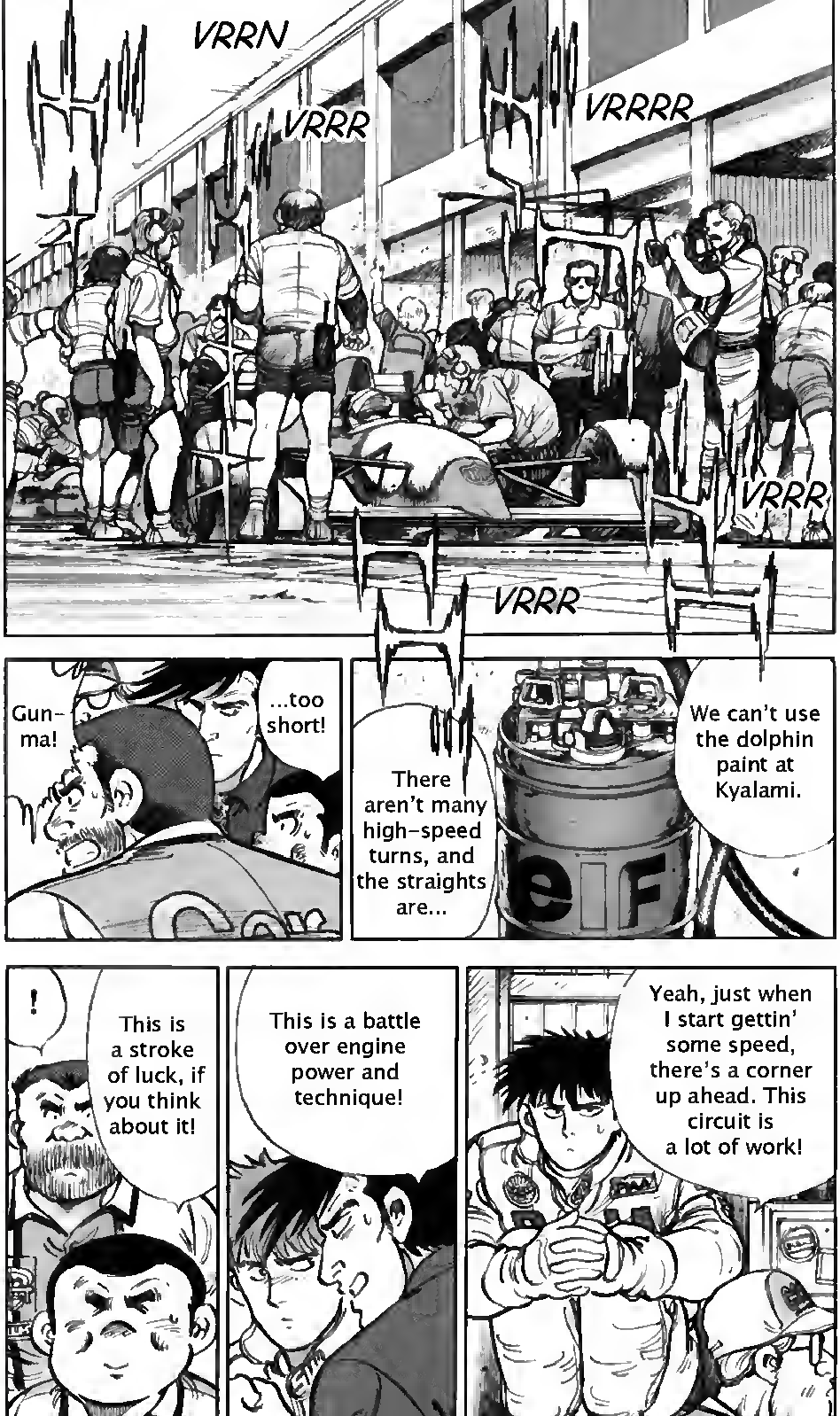

Someone... Someone please come help...

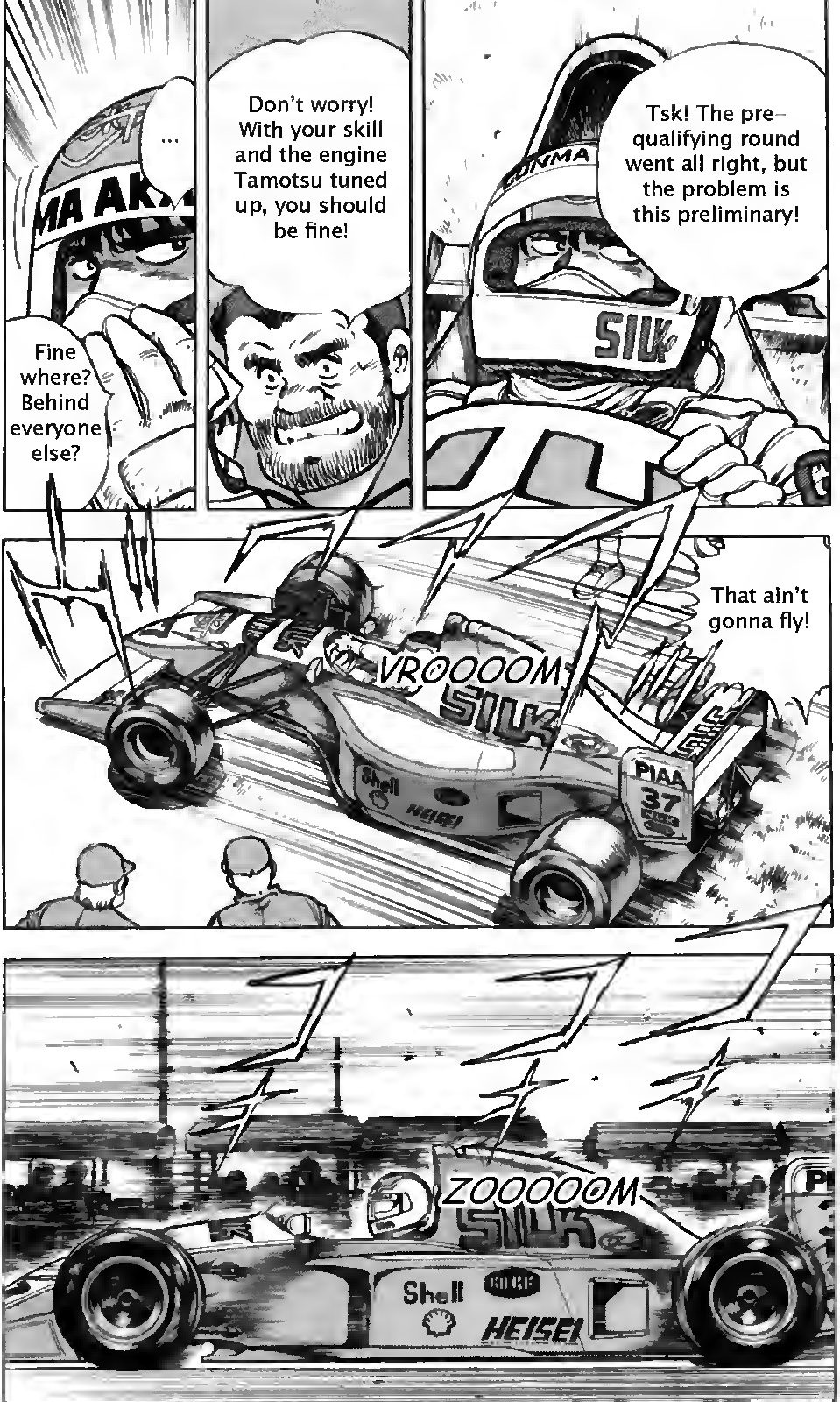

...

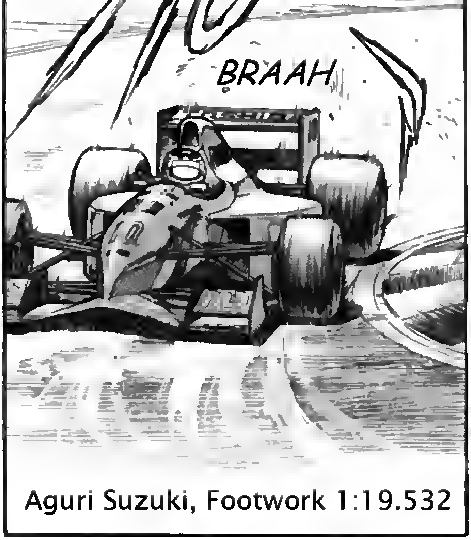

And how unfortunate it will be when yours is born, too...

Completely satisfied and confident... Believing that the world revolved around me...
I, too... ...was once a perfect being, like the child in your womb.
How un-fortunate... that I had to be born...

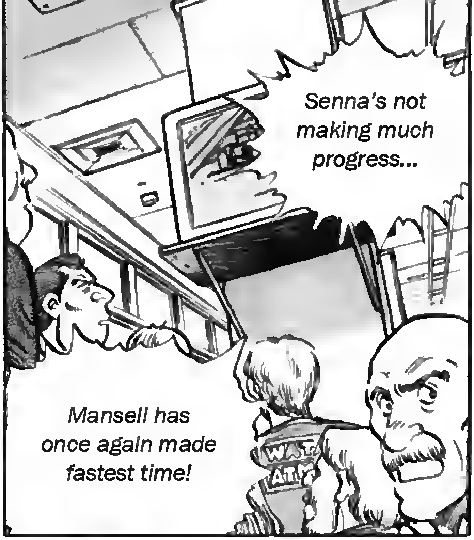
...
Are you okay, Junko?
KACHUK
...from his dream...
He's wo-ken up...
What in tarnation was that about? He calls that an apology?
Yeah... I'm fine...
...so he's creating new nightmares and forcing them onto you!
That man is too afraid to wake up...
Non-sense!
I think... He's awake now.
...!

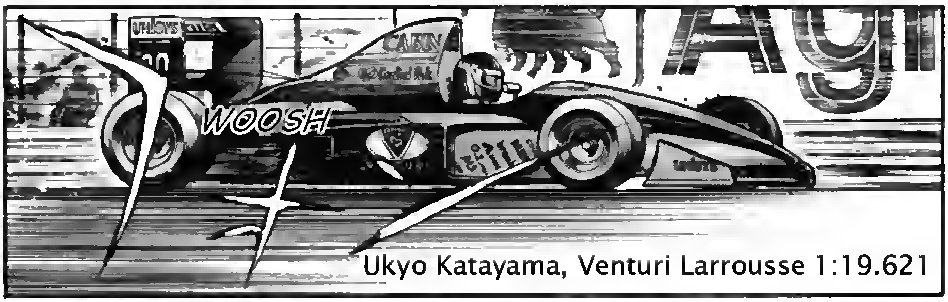

VRRN
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
Gun-ma!
...too short!
There aren't many high-speed turns, and the straights are...
We can't use the dolphin paint at Kyalami.
eiF
!
This is a stroke of luck, if you think about it!
This is a battle over engine power and technique!
Yeah, just when I start gettin' some speed, there's a corner up ahead. This circuit is a lot of work!


...
Fine where? Behind everyone else?
Don't worry! With your skill and the engine Tamotsu tuned up, you should be fine!
Tsk! The pre-qualifying round went all right, but the problem is this preliminary!
That ain't gonna fly!
VROOOOM
ZOOOOOM
SILK
Shell
HEISEI
PIAA
37



Aguri Suzuki, Footwork 1:19.532

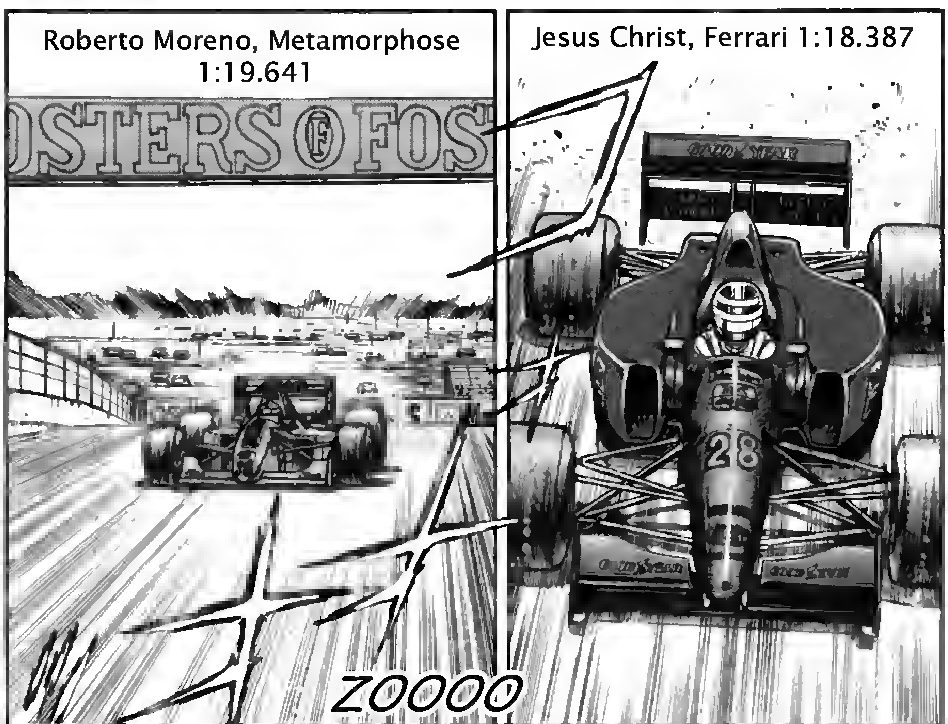


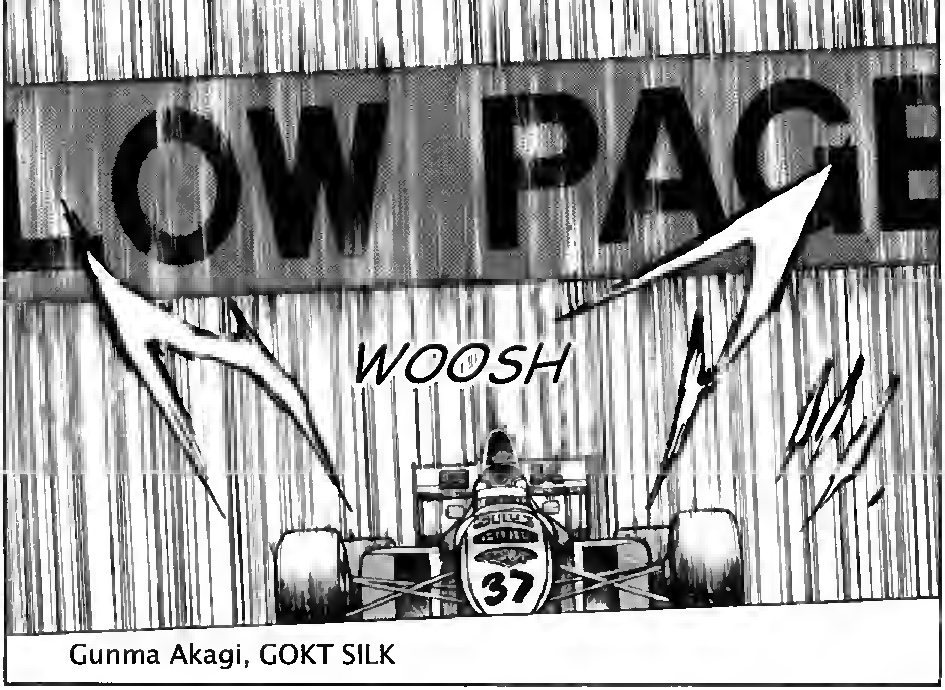


Ukyo Katayama, Venturi Larrousse 1:19.621

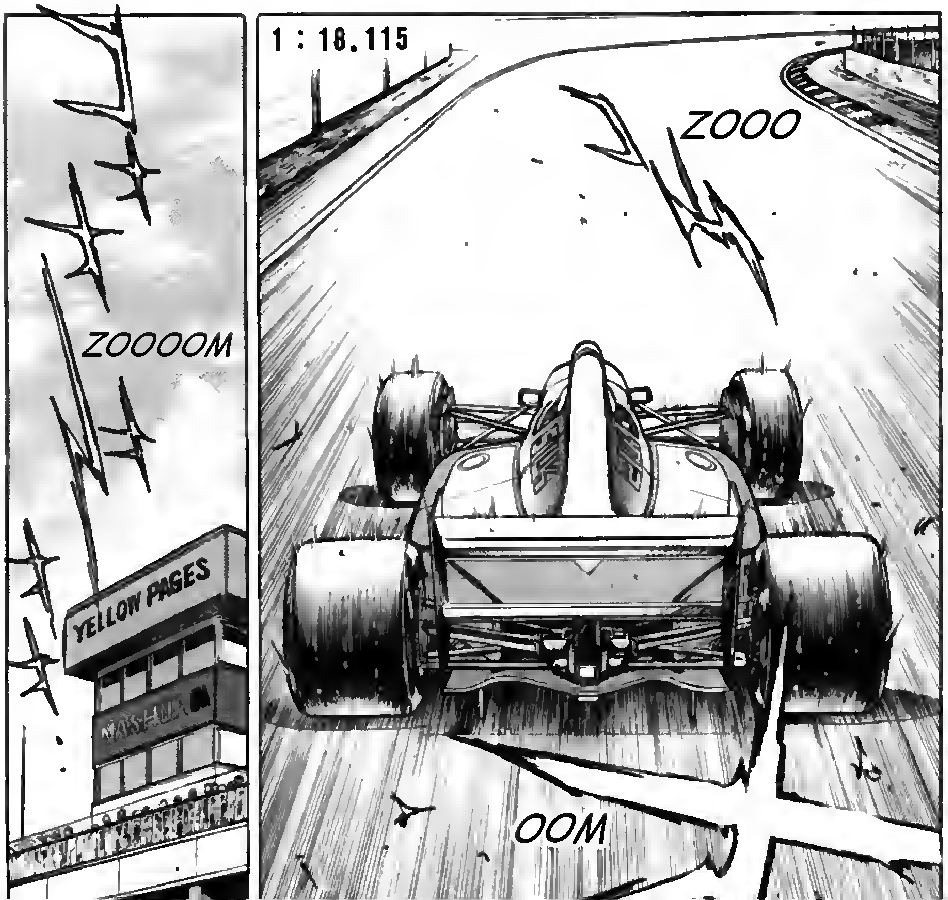
Roberto Moreno, Metamorphose 1:19.641

Jesus Christ, Ferrari 1:18.387

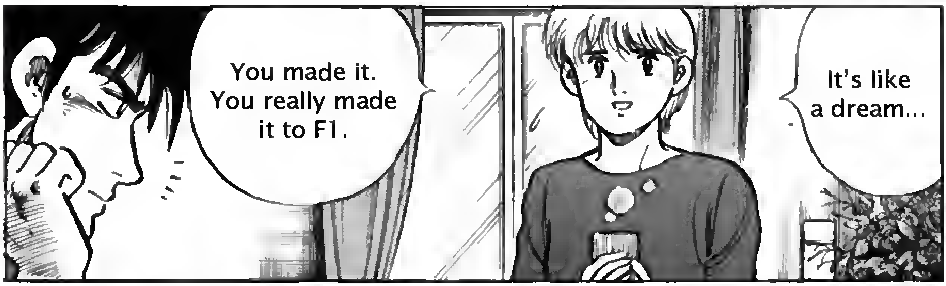




Gunma Akagi, GOKT SILK

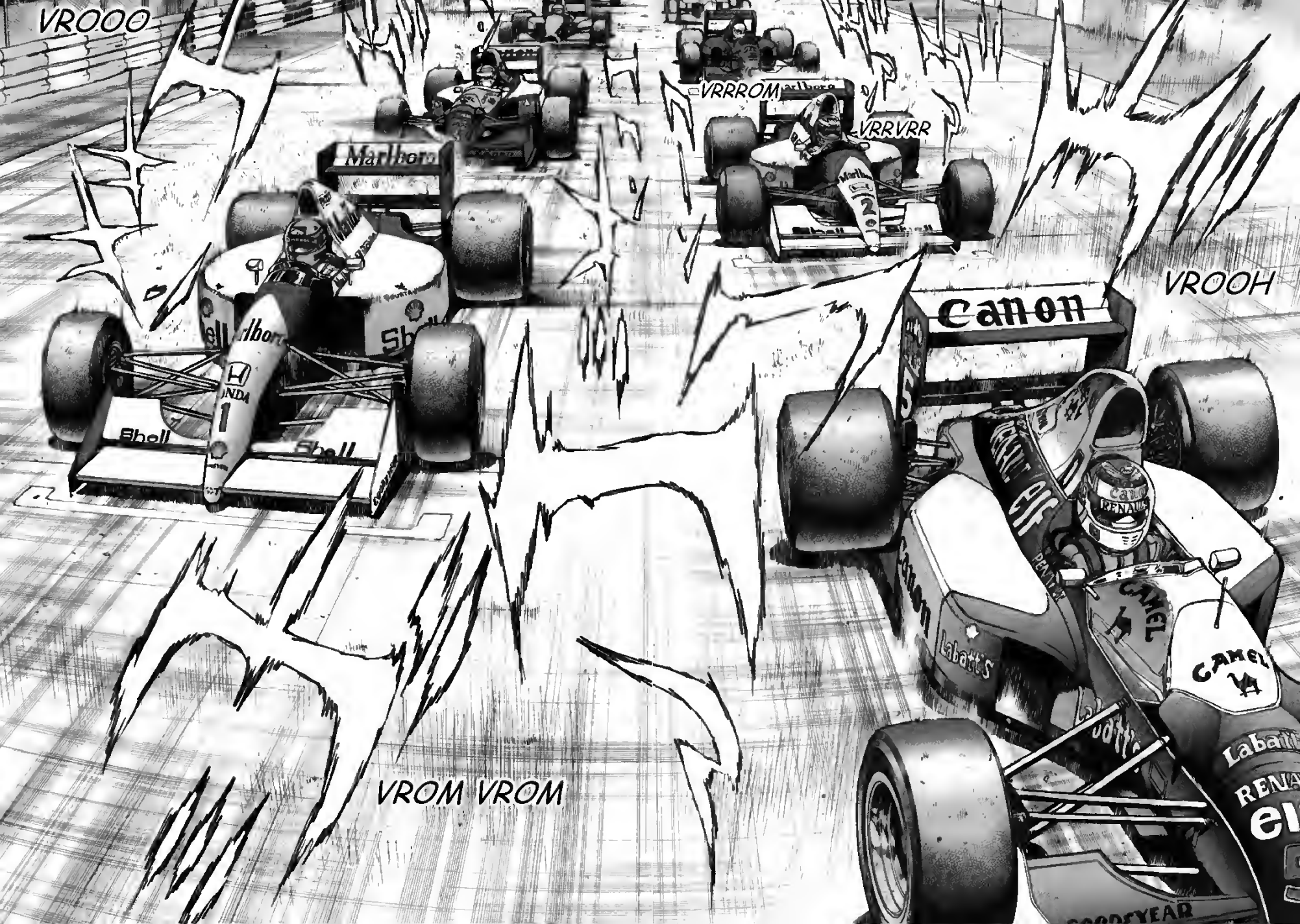


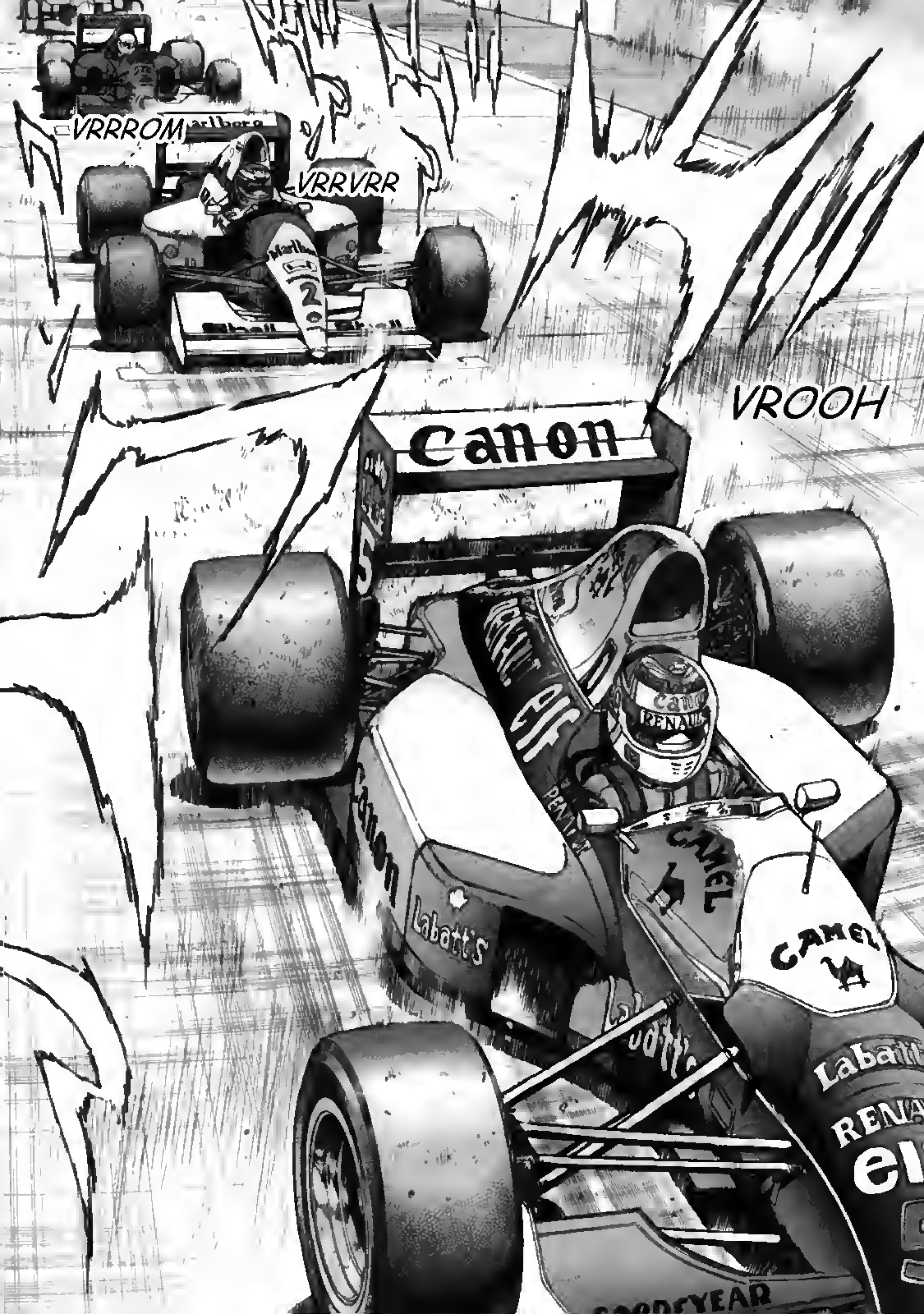
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP


You made it. You really made it to F1.
It's like a dream...

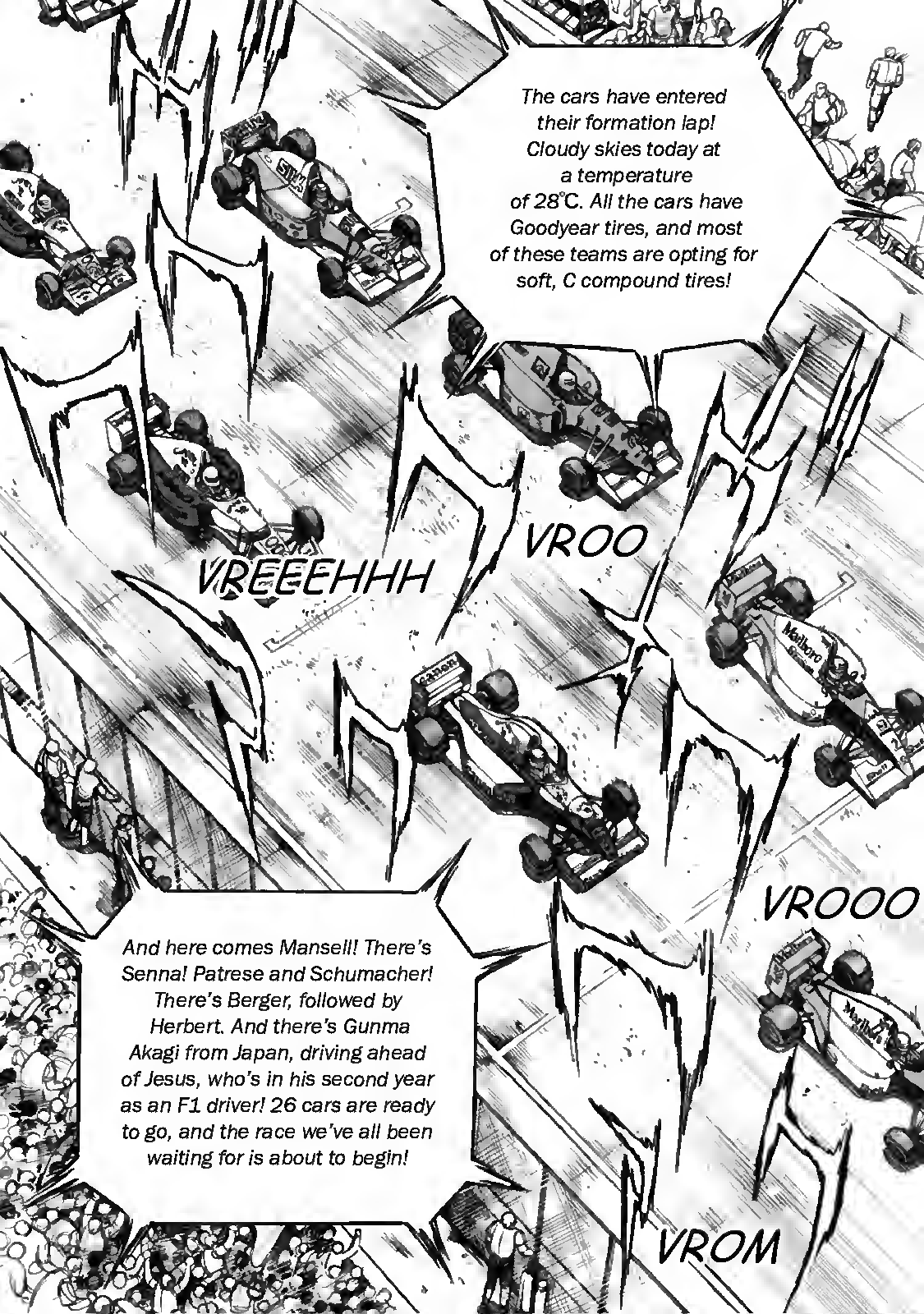
It's Japa-nese green tea.
CLUNK
Have some tea.
Whew...
...

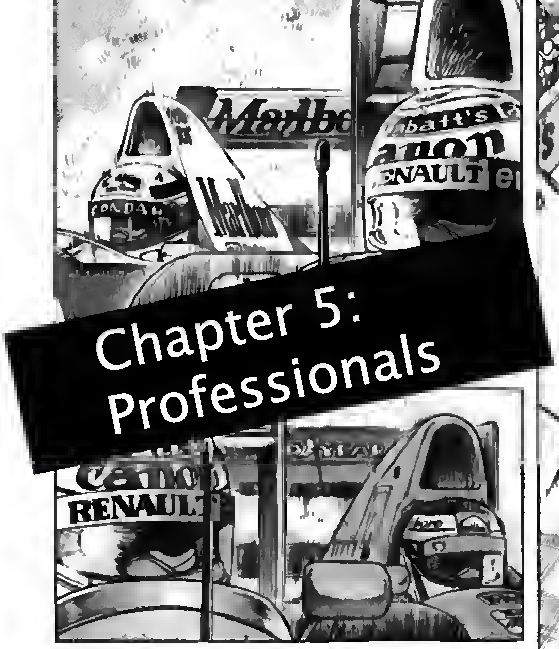
Whew
SIP
Did anything happen today?
You must be bored, sittin' up here in this hotel all day.
...
...
No. Every-thing's just fine...


VROOO
VRROM
VRRVRR
VROOH
VROM VROM
Marlboro
Shell
HONDA
Canon
CAMEL
Labatt's
GOODYEAR


VRRROM
VRRVRR
VROOH
Canon
Canon
Labatt's
CAMEL
CAMEL
GOODYEAR

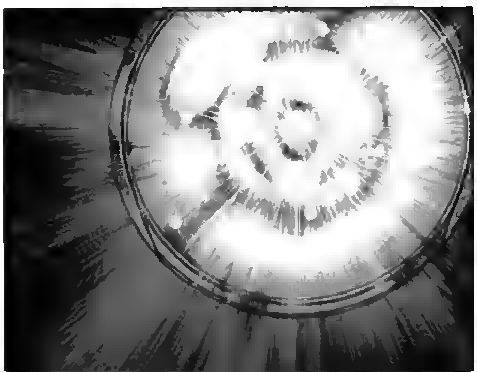
VROOO
Marlboro
Shell
Shell
VROM VROM

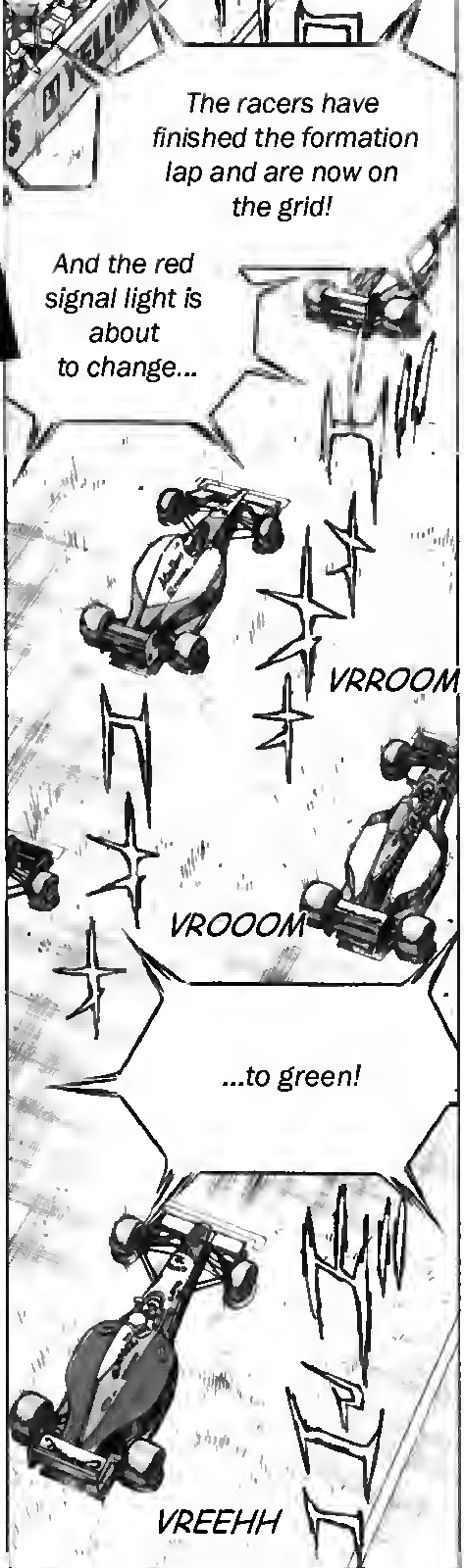

The cars have entered their formation lap! Cloudy skies today at a temperature of 28℃. All the cars have Goodyear tires, and most of these teams are opting for soft, C compound tires!
VREEEHHH
VROO
VROOO
VROM
And here comes Mansell! There's Senna! Patrese and Schumacher! There's Berger, followed by Herbert. And there's Gunma Akagi from Japan, driving ahead of Jesus, who's in his second year as an F1 driver! 26 cars are ready to go, and the race we've all been waiting for is about to begin!

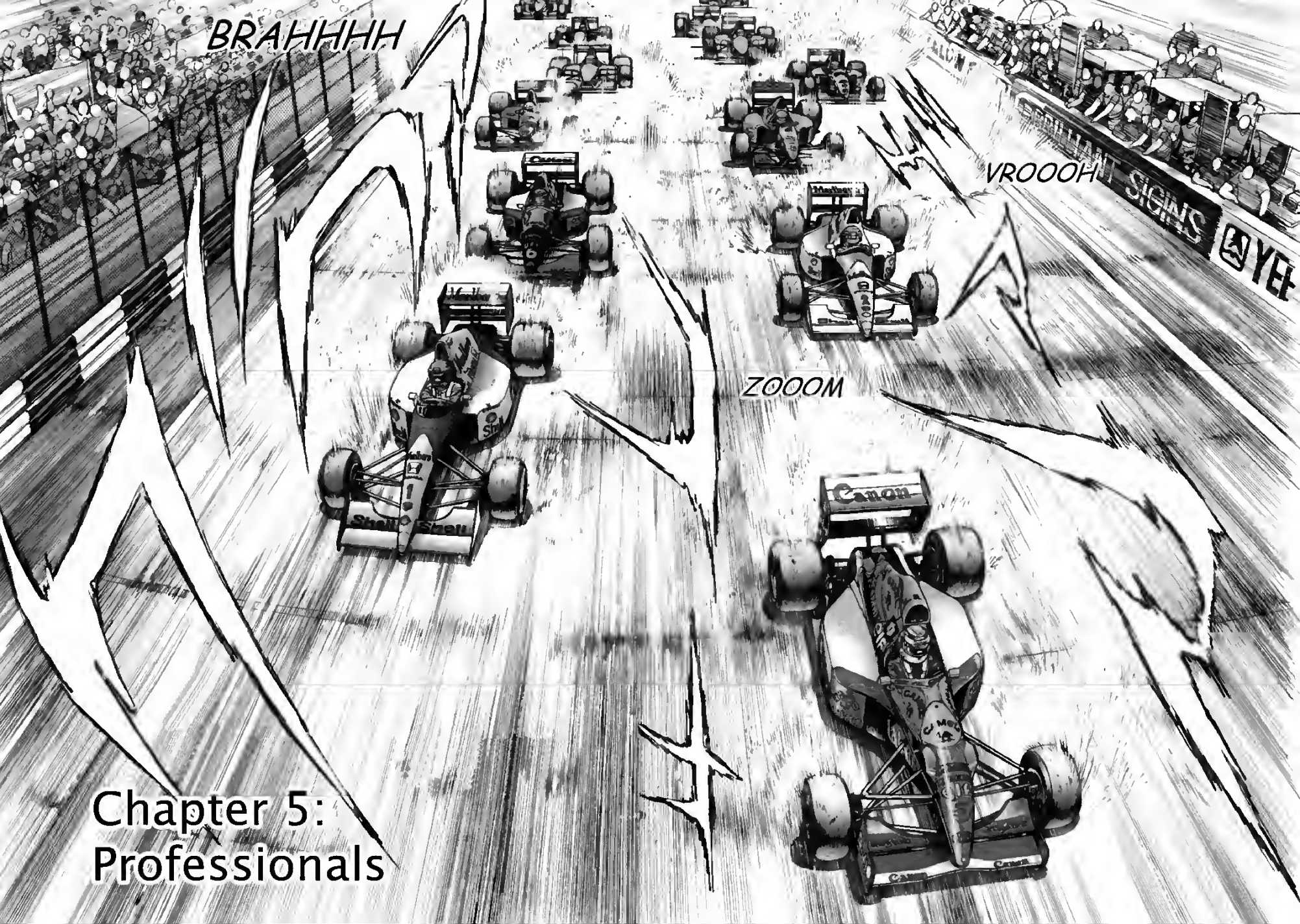

Chapter 5:
Professionals

It's the ritual that takes place before every race!

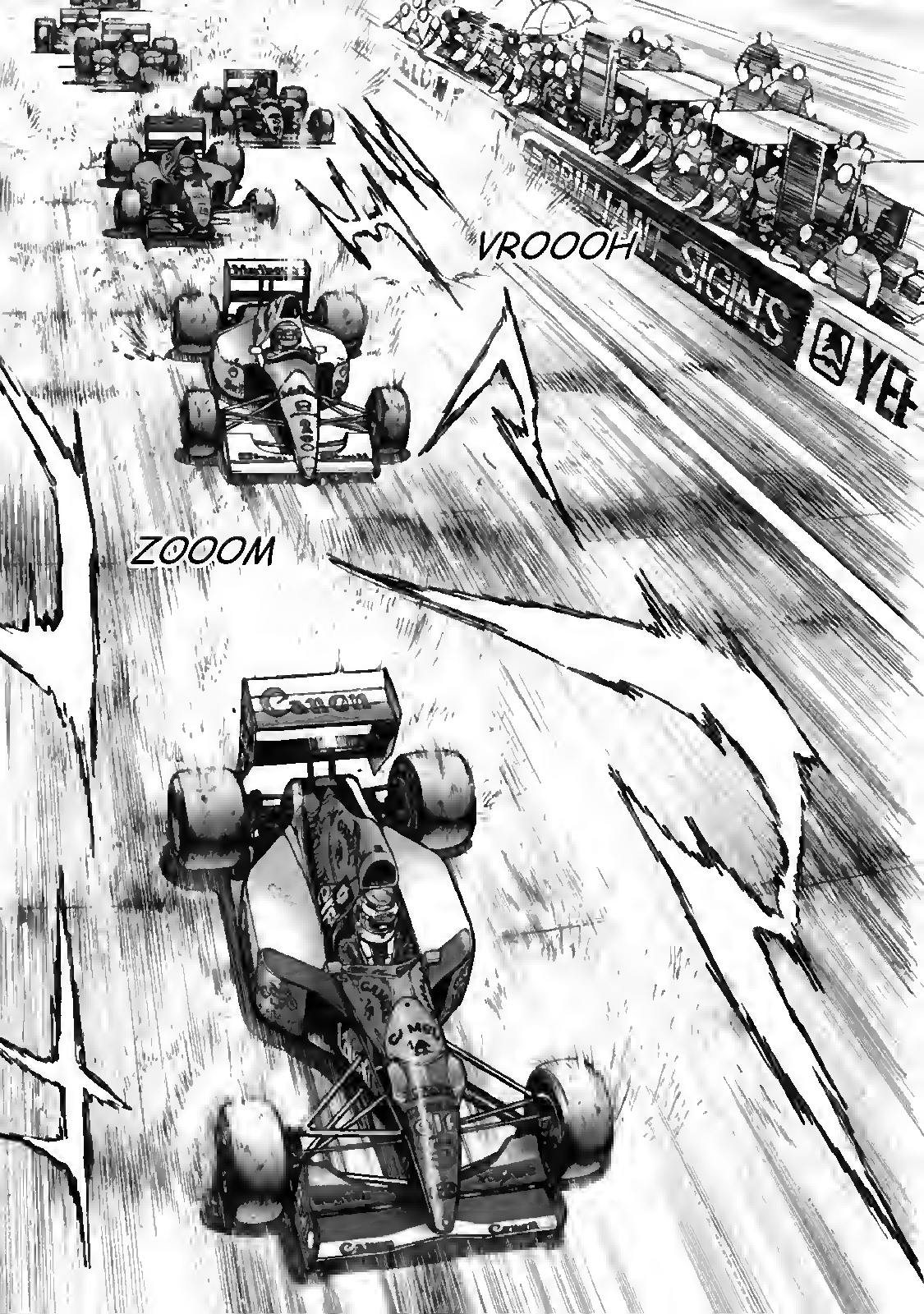
GUNMA AKAGI

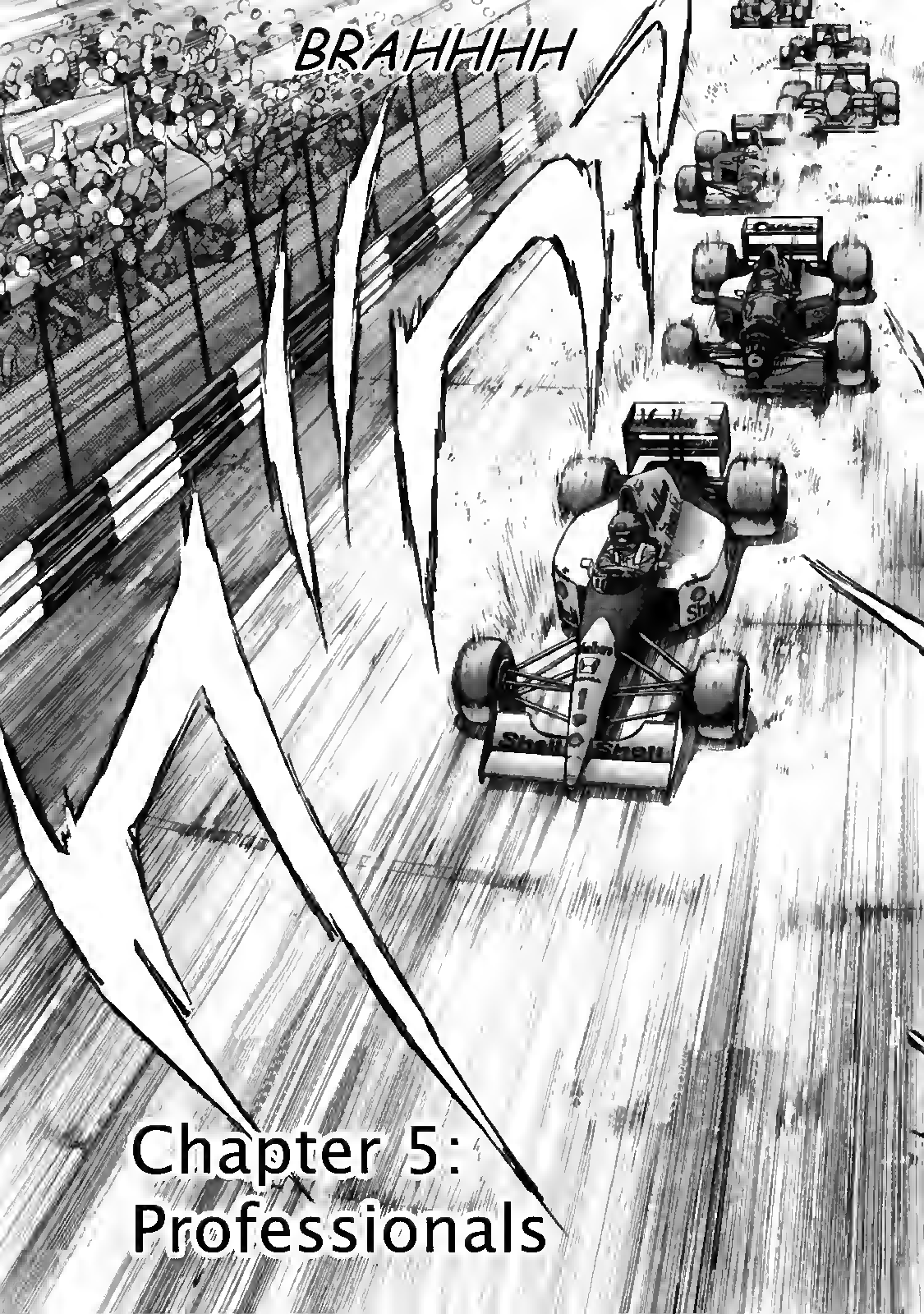



The racers have finished the formation lap and are now on the grid!
And the red signal light is about to change...
VRROOM
VROOOM
...to green!
VREEHH

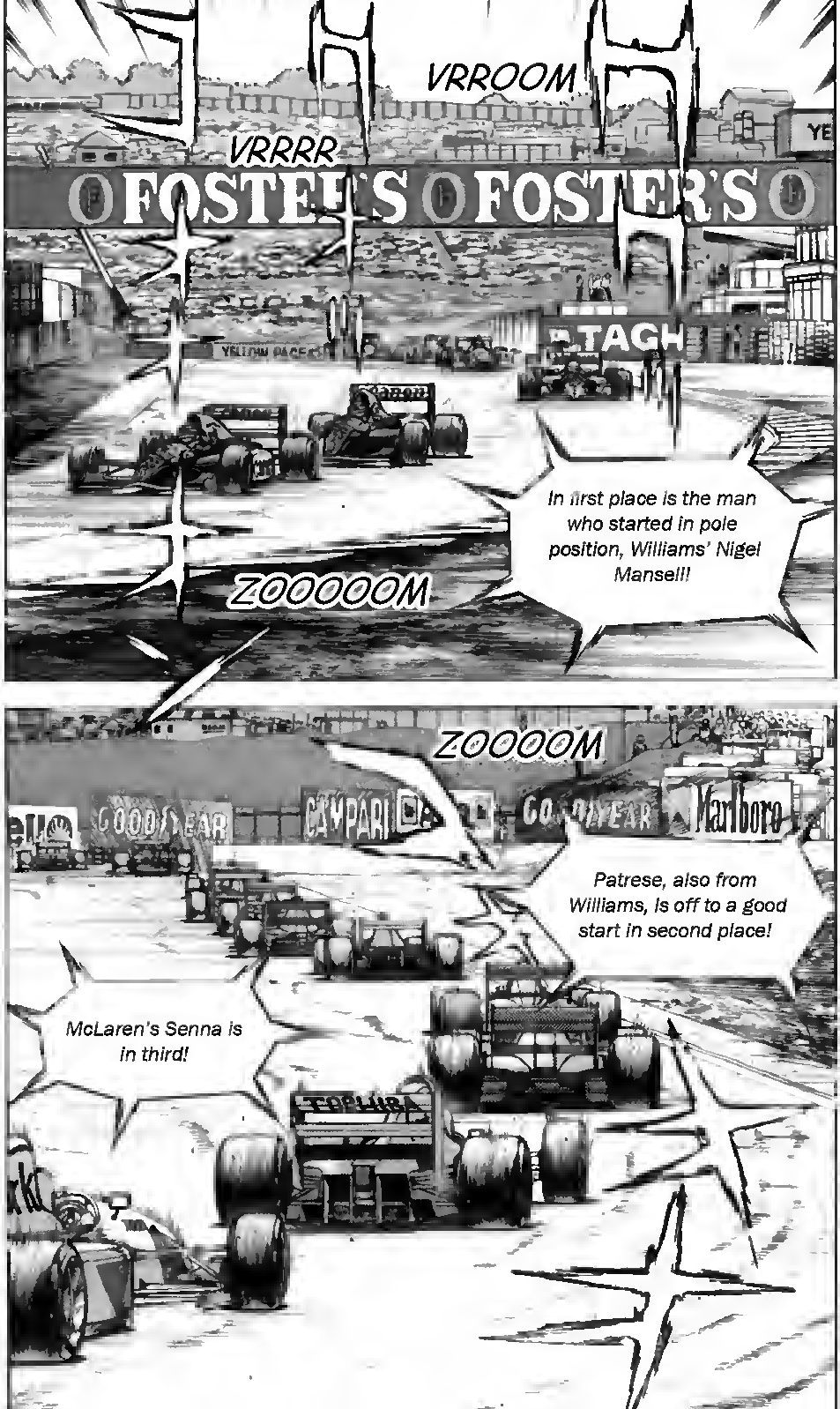


Chapter 5: Professionals

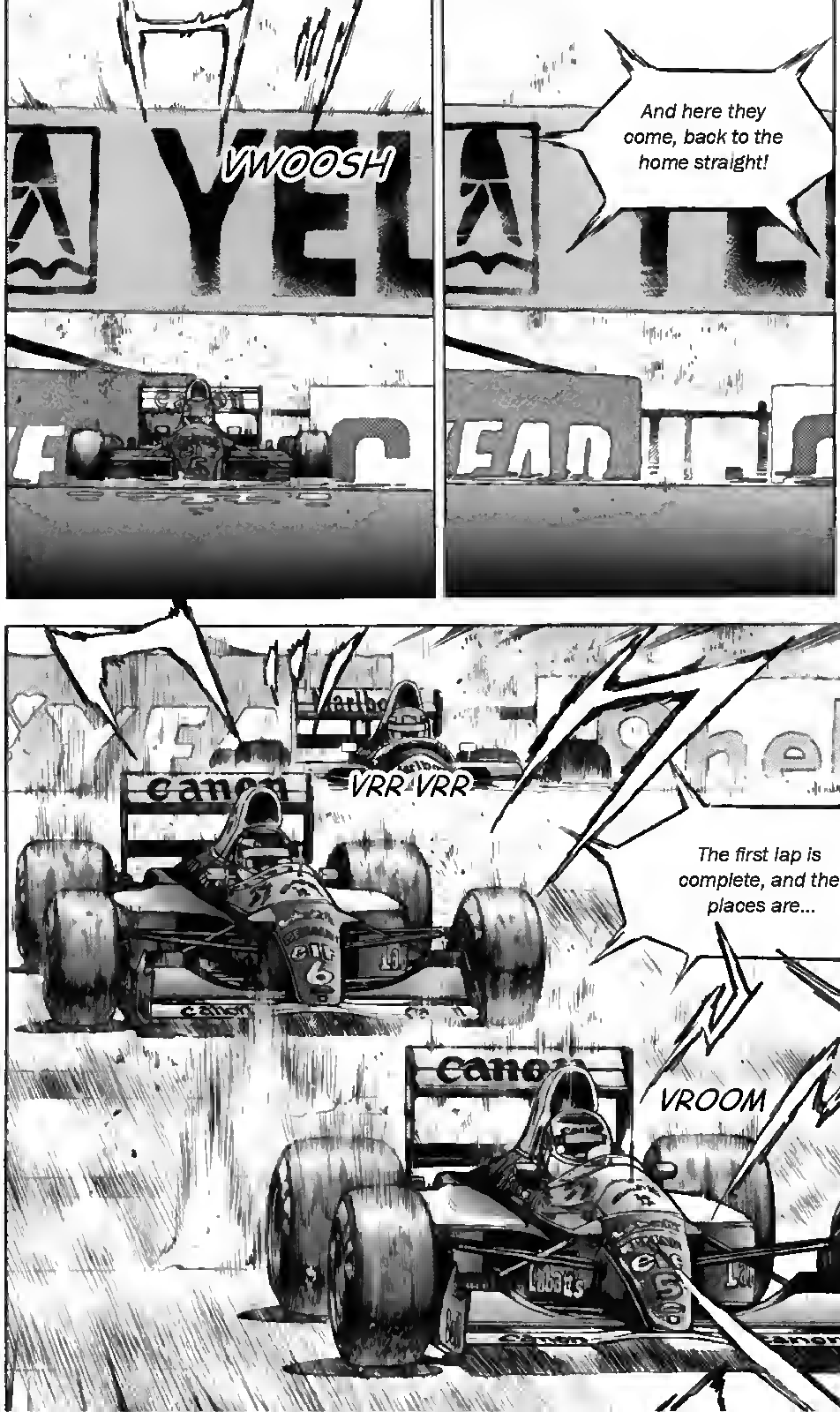

VROOOH
ZOOOM
SIGNS

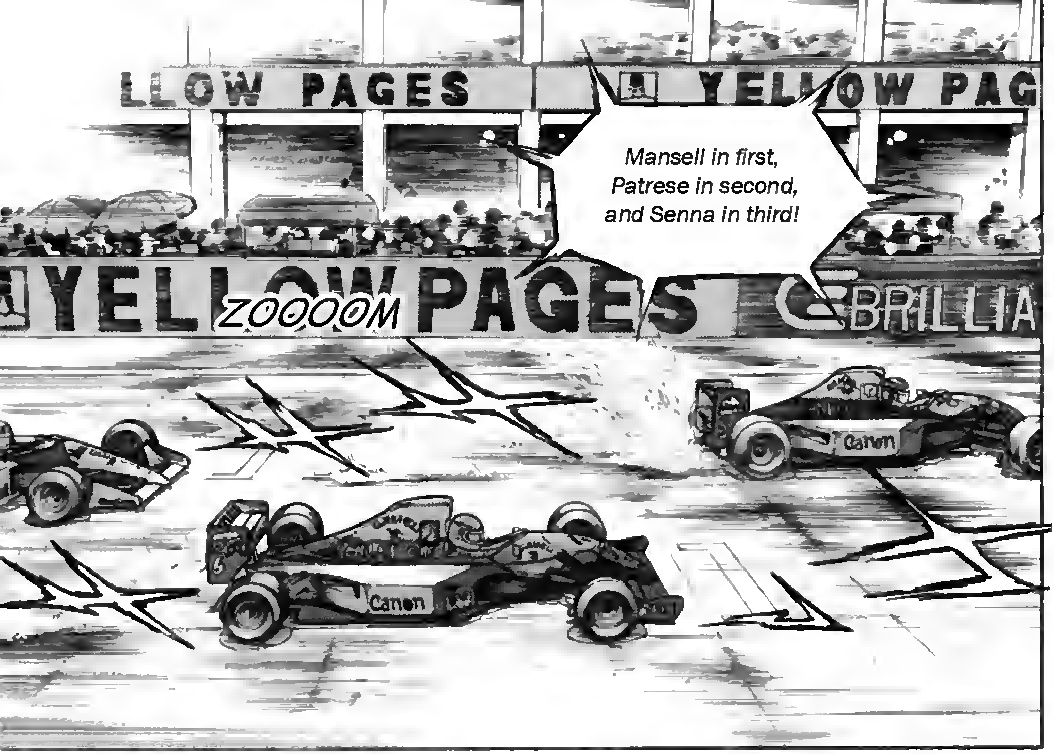


Chapter 5: Professionals

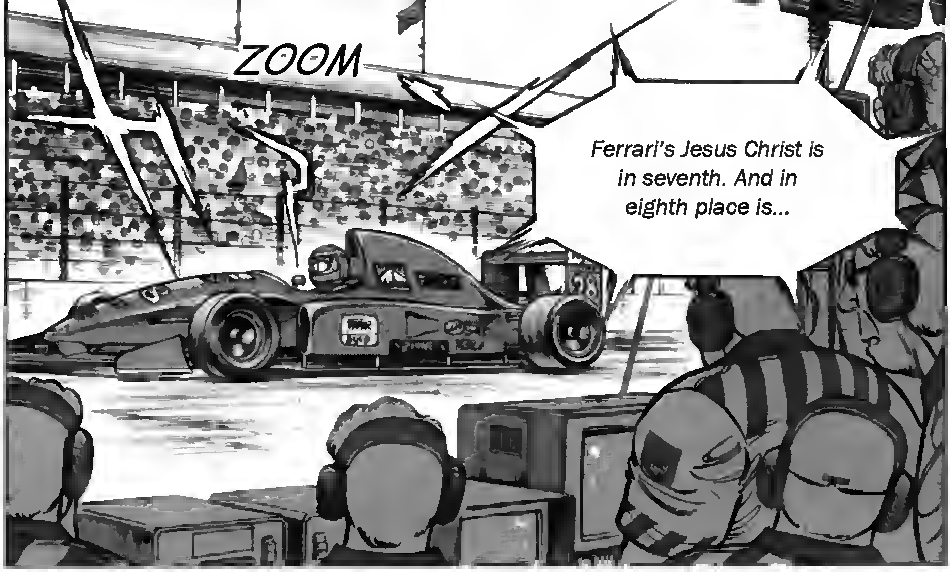

VRROOM
VRRRR
FOSTER'S FOSTER'S
TAGH
In first place is the man who started in pole position, Williams' Nigel Mansell!
ZOOOOOM
ZOOOOM
GOODYEAR
CAMPARI
GOODYEAR
Marlboro
Patrese, also from Williams, is off to a good start in second place!
McLaren's Senna is in third!

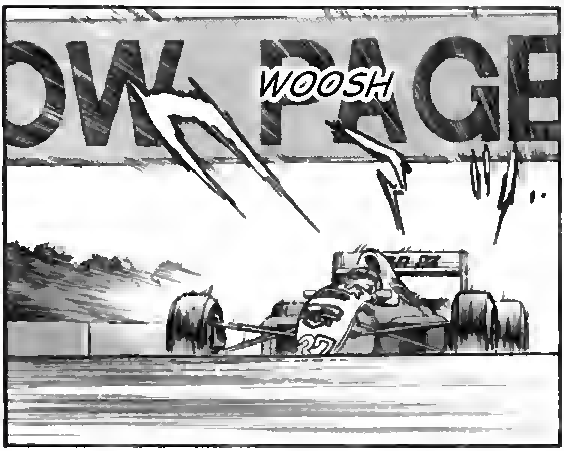
Marlboro
The elevation here is at 1,900 meters! The thin air will surely affect both the engines and the drivers!
The group of cars in the lead has cleared the west-bank hairpin...
...and are now charging into the Continental Corner
VAROOM
KRRT
KRRT
ZOOOOM

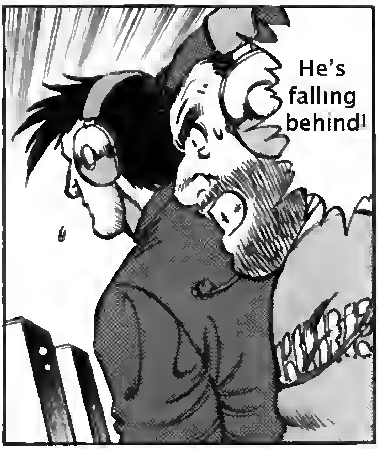

VWOOSH
And here they come, back to the home straight!
VRR VRR
The first lap is complete, and the places are...
VROOM

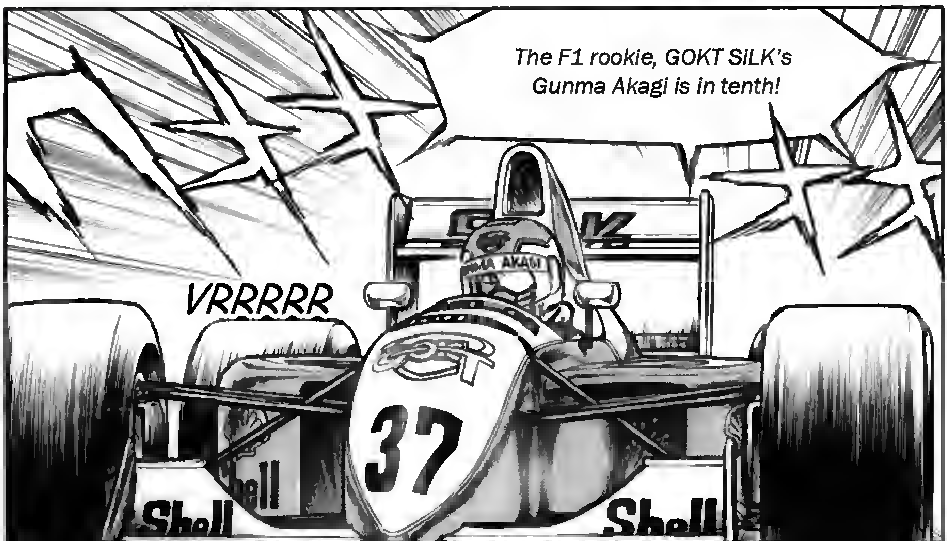

LLOW PAGES
YELLOW PAG
Mansell in first,
Patrese in second,
and Senna in third!
YELLOW PAGES
ZOOOOM
BRILLIA
Canon
Canon

Ferrari's Jean Alesi is in fourth.
Benetton's Schumacher is in fifth.
And falling slightly behind,
McLaren's Berger is in sixth!
OW PAGES
VROOM
VR VRROOM

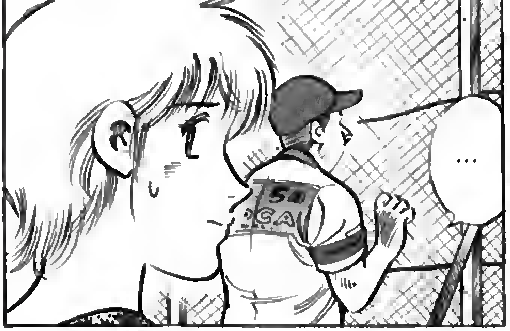

ZOOM
Ferrari's Jesus Christ is in seventh. And in eighth place is...

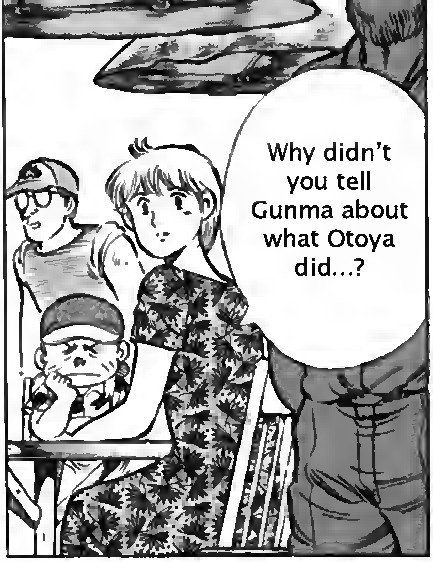

WOOSH


He's falling behind!

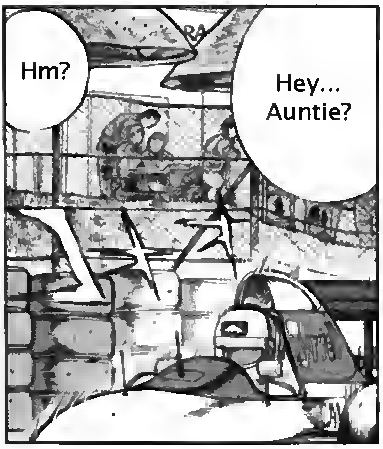

The F1 rookie, GOKT SILK's Gunma Akagi is in tenth!
VRRRRR
37
Shell
Shell

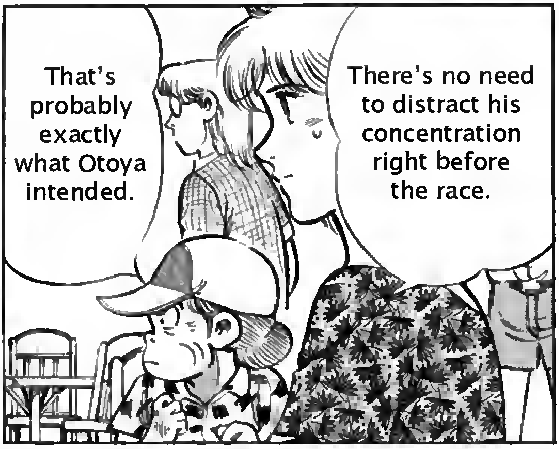
That guy's just incredible.
I mean, he was almost frighteningly fast during the preliminary.
Not bad at all.
But he's not in a bad position!
The problem is whether that car will last 72 laps...
Keep it up!
But Gunma's doin' pretty good even without it!
We can't really make any use of the dolphin paint on this circuit.
FOOM
Junko...

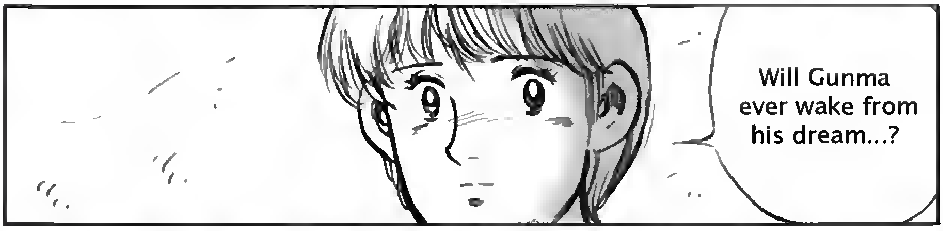

...

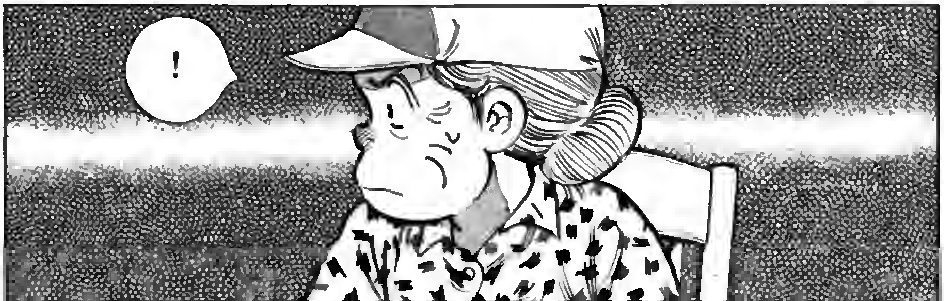

Why didn't you tell Gunma about what Otoya did...?

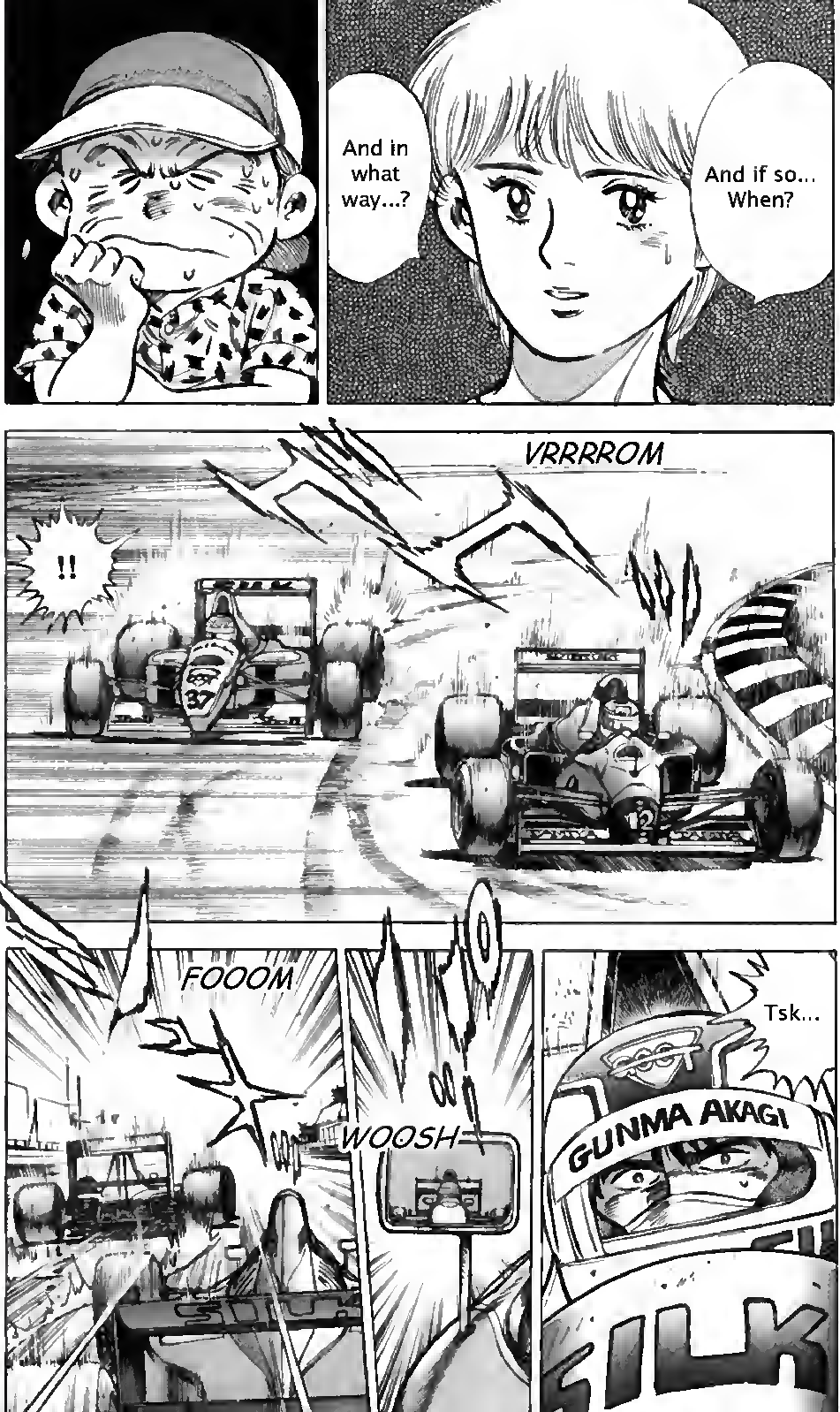
Of course you can't tell him.
Oh, forget it. That was a silly question.


Hm?
Hey... Auntie?

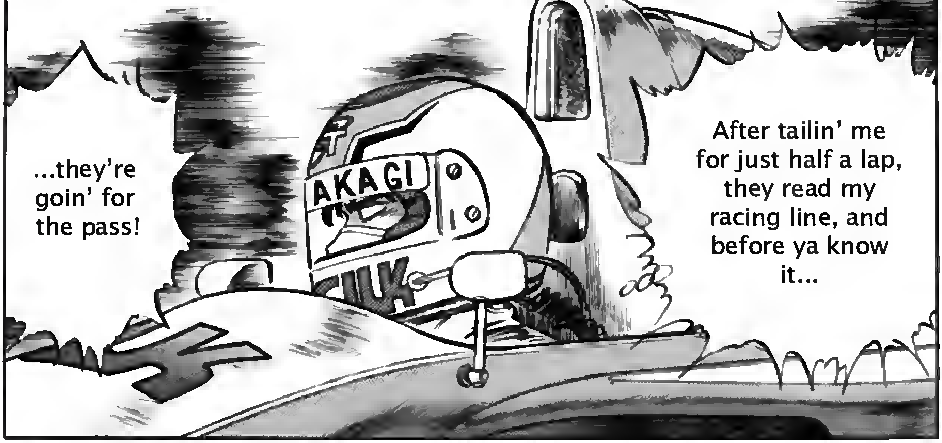

That's probably exactly what Otoya intended.
There's no need to distract his concentration right before the race.


Will Gunma ever wake from his dream...?


!

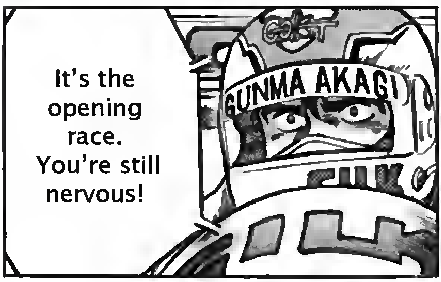

And in what way...?
And if so... When?
VRRROM
!!
FOOOM
WOOSH
Tsk...
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK

What the hell is going on...?
I was way faster in the pre-liminary...
ZOOOOOM
Gunma Akagi was suddenly passed by two cars!
YELLOW PAGES
NASHUA
SILK
SHOOM
VWOOSH
GUNMA
...but somehow, they're all securing their racing lines...
There shouldn't be no veterans or beginners here...
This whole circuit was rebuilt. It's totally changed.
GUNMA
SILK


...they're goin' for the pass!
AKAGI
After tailin' me for just half a lap, they read my racing line, and before ya know it...

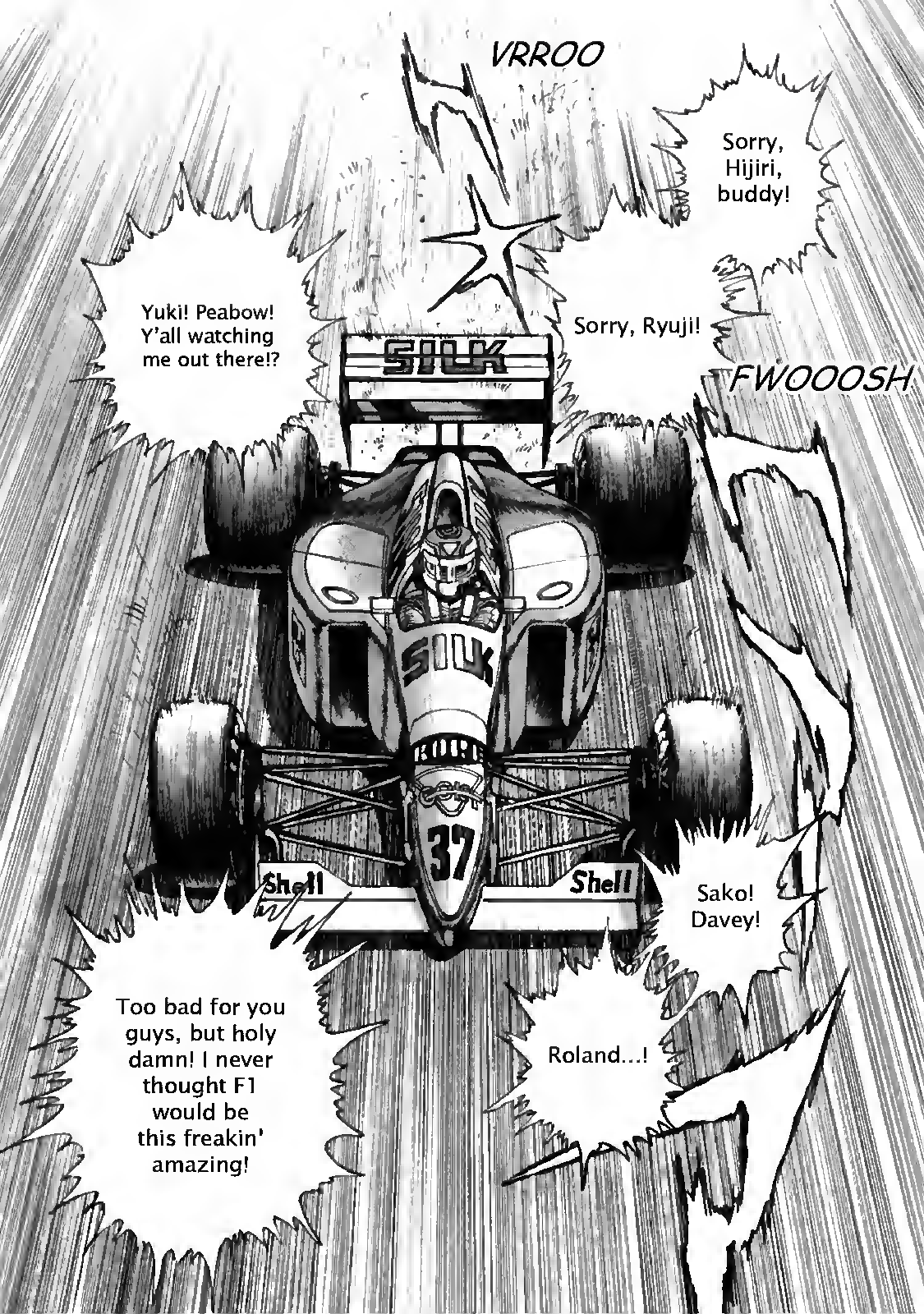
Stay calm, Gunma! Be careful!

Damn! So these are the real pros, huh!?
AGI


It's the opening race. You're still nervous!
GUNMA AKAGI

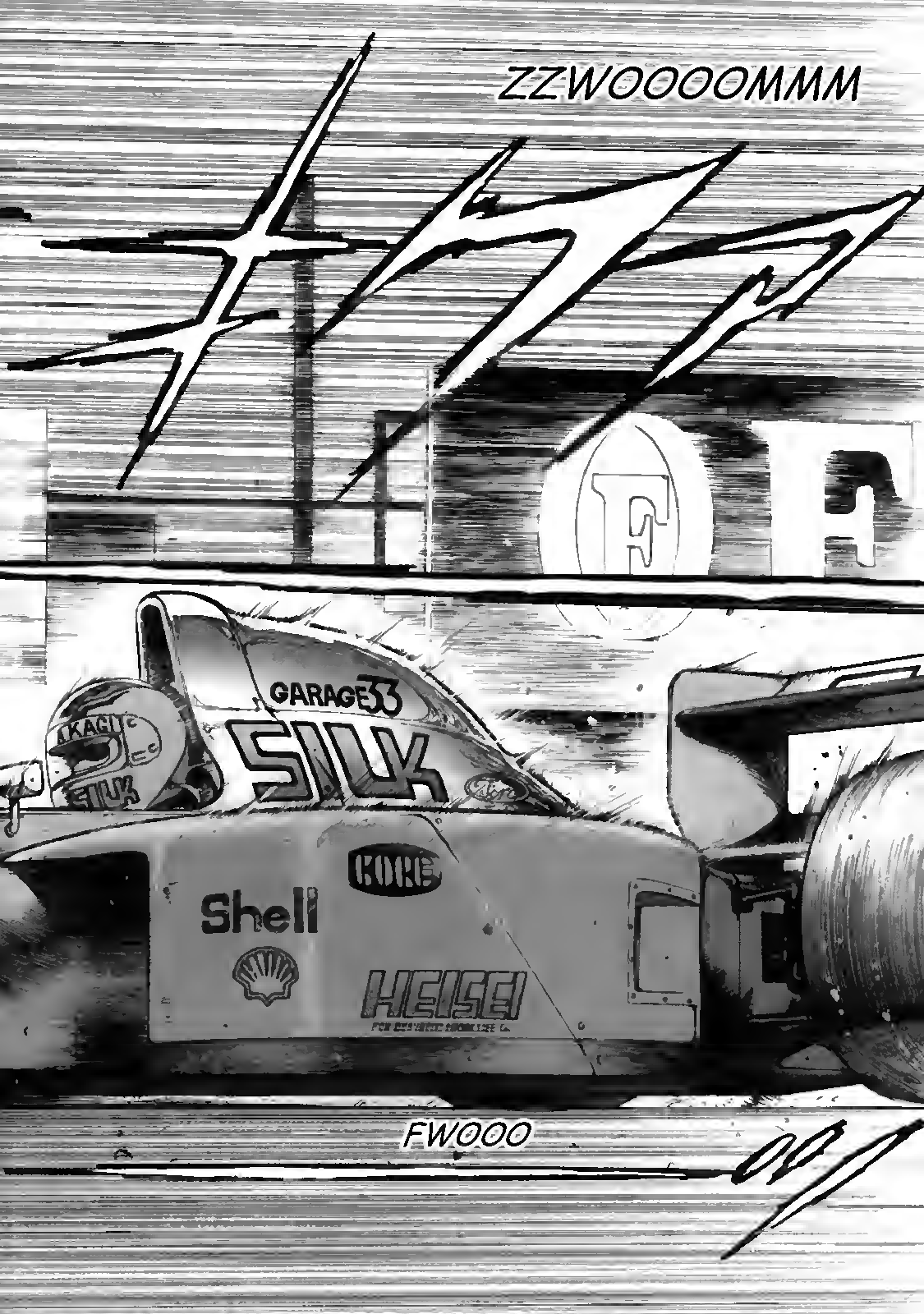
This is gettin' me psyched as hell!
Damn!
GUNMA AKAGI

So this is how the real game is played, huh!?

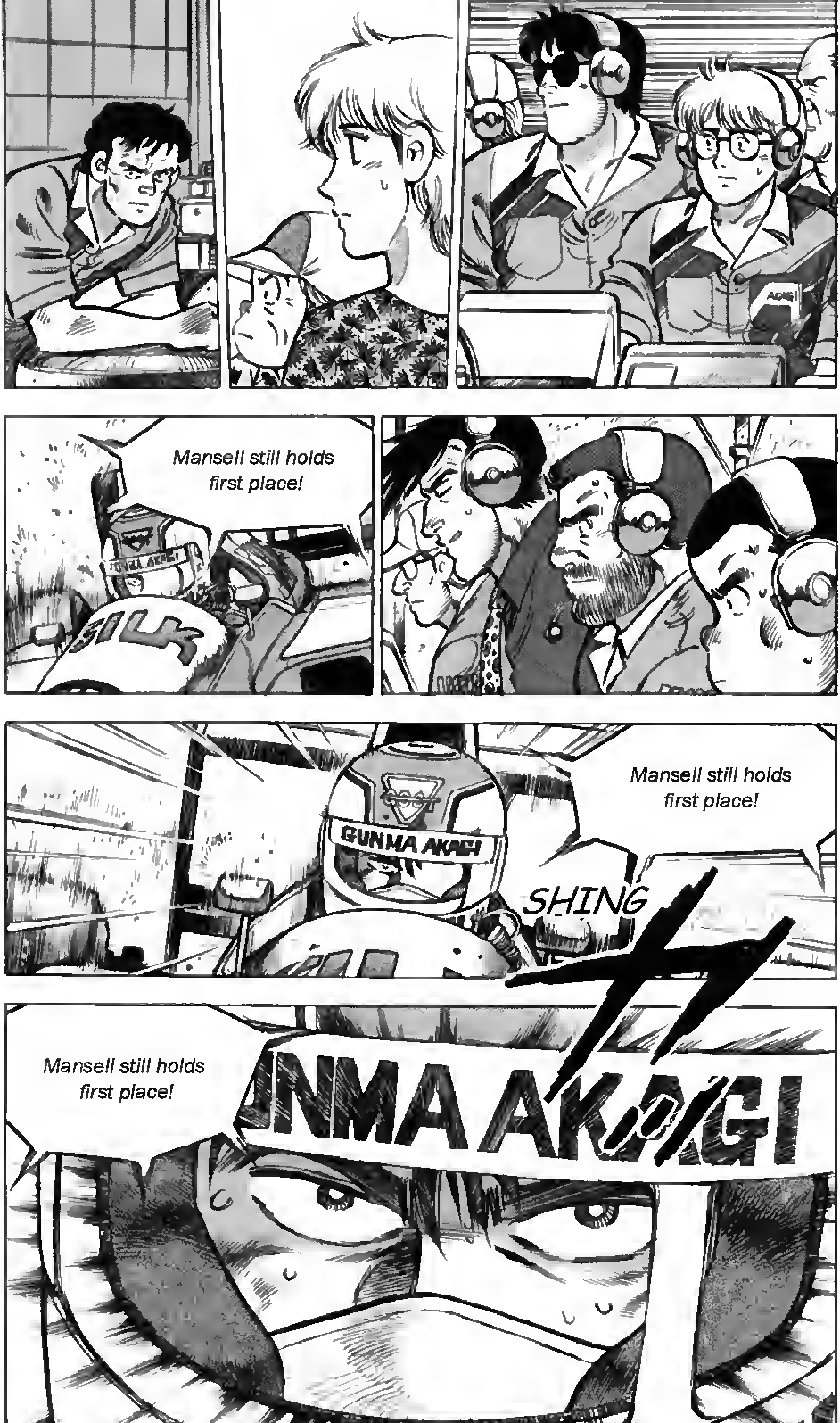

VRROO
Sorry, Hijiri, buddy!
Yuki! Peabow! Y'all watching me out there!?
Sorry, Ryuji!
FWOOOSH
SILK
SILK
KOBE
37
Shell
Shell
Sako! Davey!
Too bad for you guys, but holy damn! I never thought F1 would be this freakin' amazing!
Roland...!

!?
!!
What the...?
That kid...
...he's ...
SHIVER
SHIVER
...enjoying the hell out of it!
KRUK
KRR
VWOOSH
BRAAAH

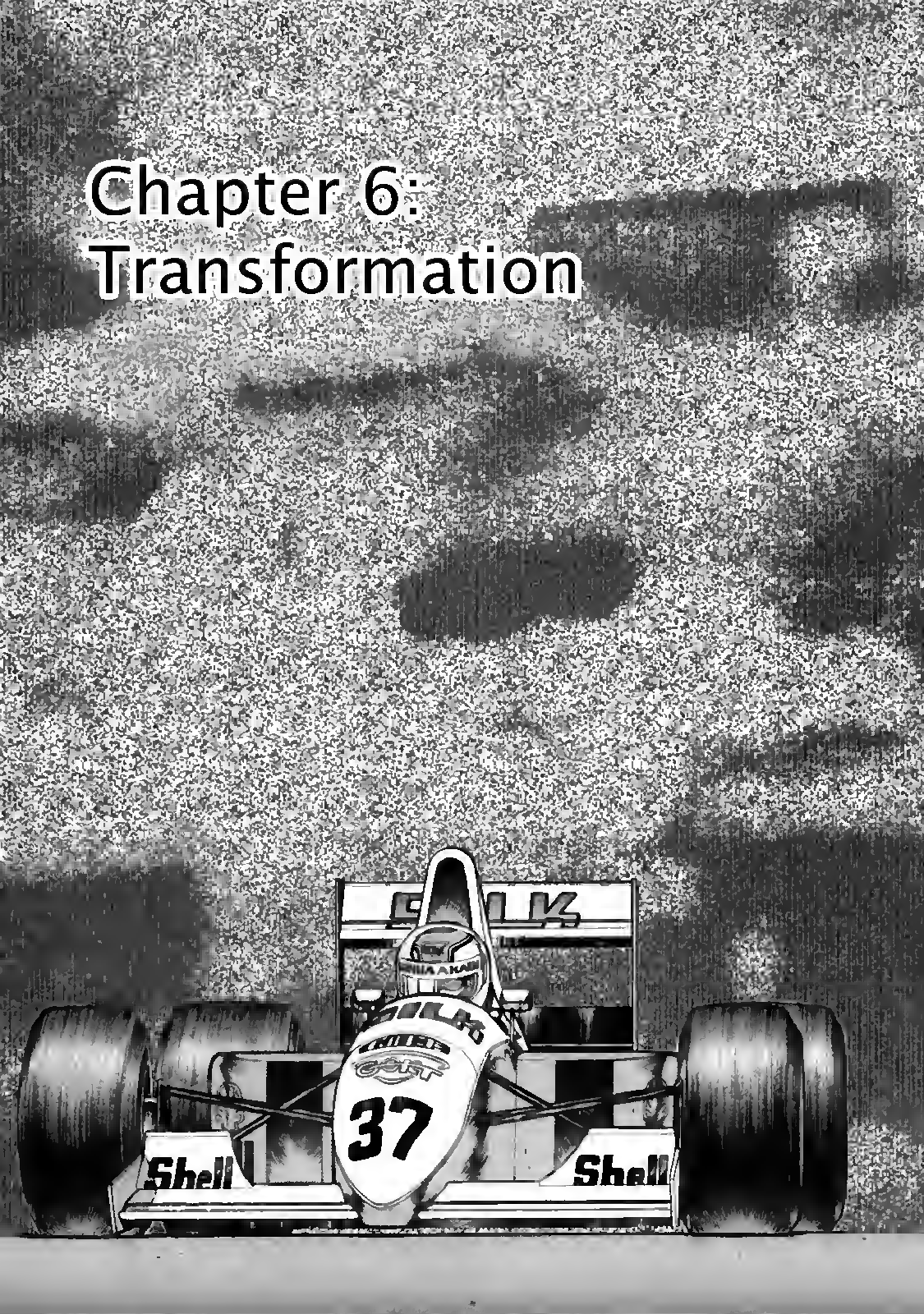
ZOOOOOM
ZZWOOOOMMM
GARAGE 33
SILK
KAGI
KOKE
Shell
HEISEI
FWOOO


ZZWOOOOMMM
GARAGE 33
AKAGI
SILK
SILK
KOKE
Shell
HEISEI
FWOOO

ZOOOOOM

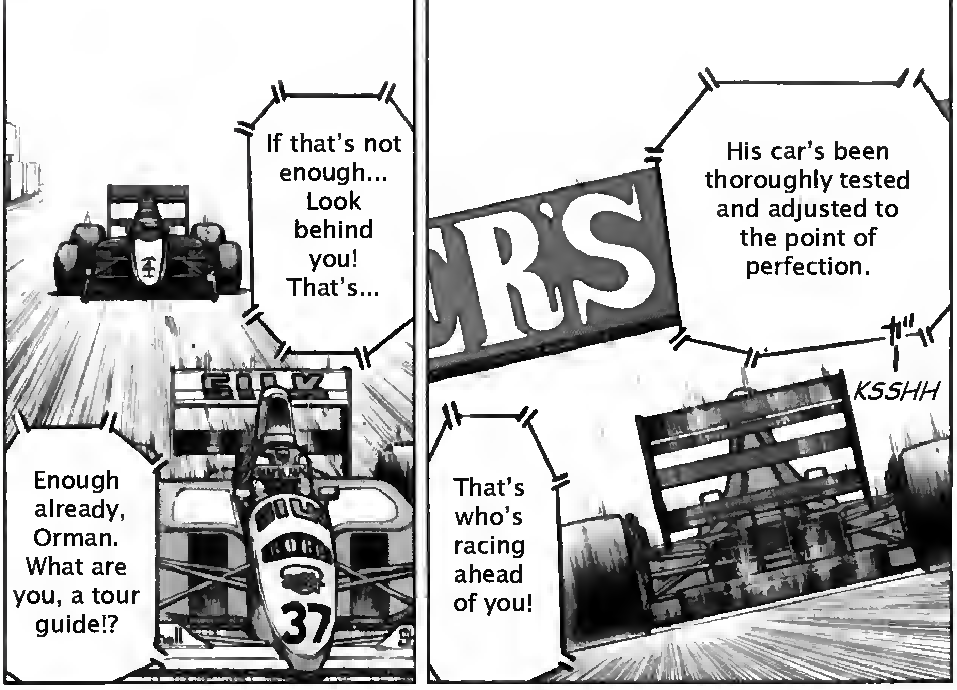

Mansell still holds first place!
Mansell still holds first place!
GUNMA AKAGI
SHING
Mansell still holds first place!
GUNMA AKAGI

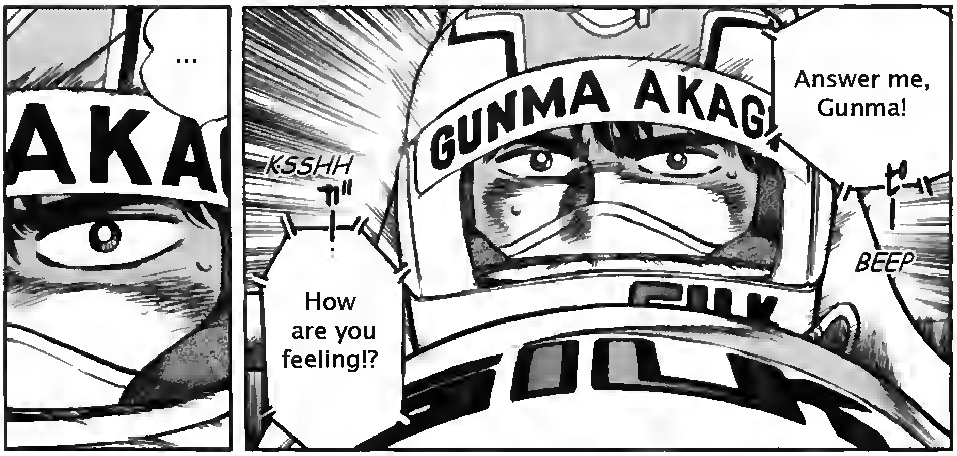
Chapter 6: Transformation



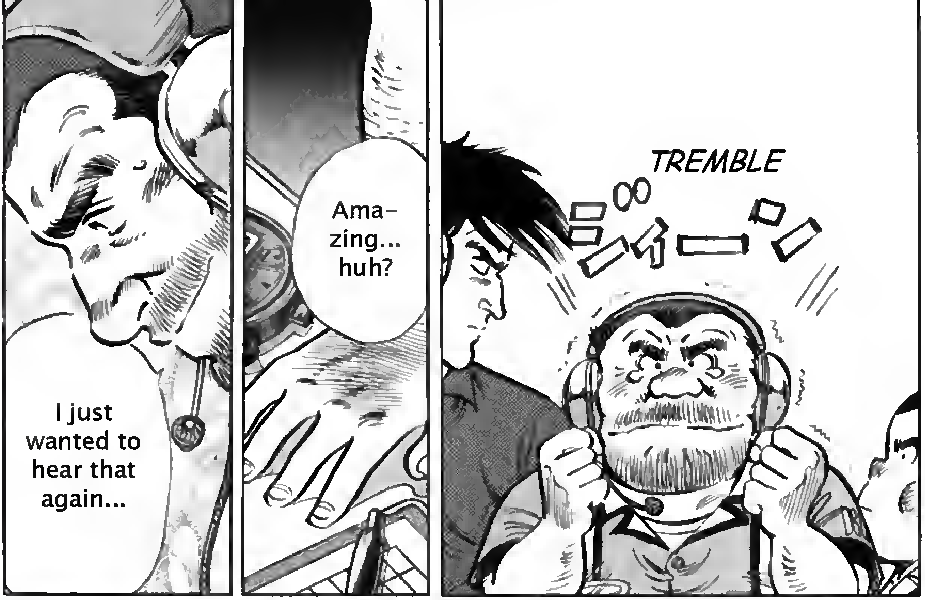
ZOOOM
VRRVRR
After 30 laps, Nigel Mansell of Williams Renault still keeps his lead! He has yet to drop below second place!
Benetton's Brundle, Larrousse's Gachot, and two others are already out of the race! The game of survival of the opening round is well underway!
McLaren Honda's Ayrton Senna shows his usual impressive driving, but can't quite seem to get past third place!
canon
canon

At the moment, you're in tenth place.
Among a group of top-notch F1 racers...
How am I... feeling? ...Hell if I know.
AKAGI
SILK
ZWOOOM
How're ya feelin', Gunma!?
KSHHH
Every-thing all right?
BEEP
GUNMA AKAGI
The car overall is doing perfectly fine!
KSHHH
The engine is still in good shape!
...your rookie ass got through 30 laps and you've maintained in tenth place!
GUNM
He's been racing F1 for nine years, been in 137 races, and has been champion three times!
It's Thierry Boutsen, driving a Ligier Gitanes Blondes.
Take a good look at the guy ahead of you!
KSSHH

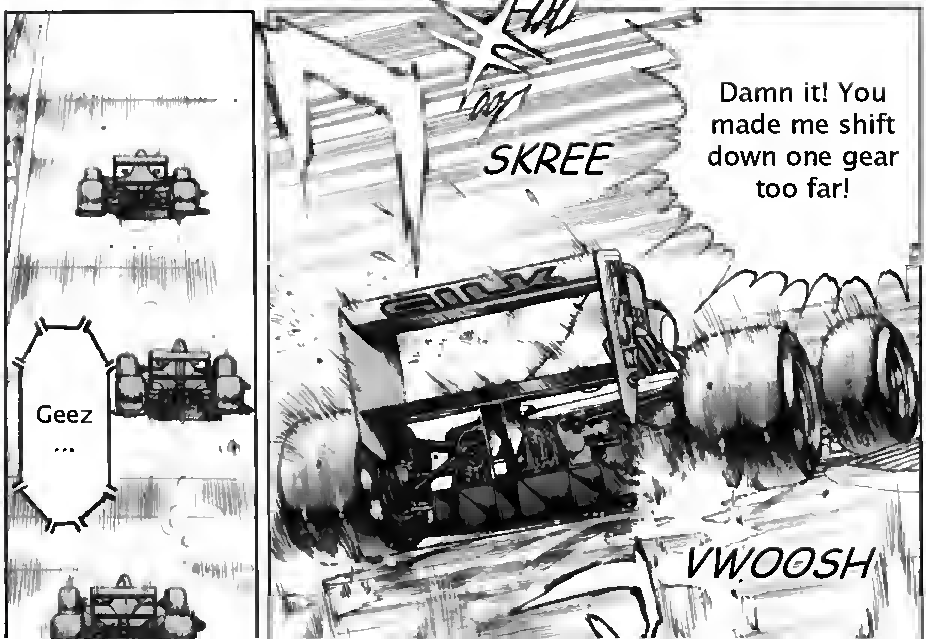

If that's not enough... Look behind you! That's...
Enough already, Orman. What are you, a tour guide!?
His car's been thoroughly tested and adjusted to the point of perfection.
KSSHH
That's who's racing ahead of you!

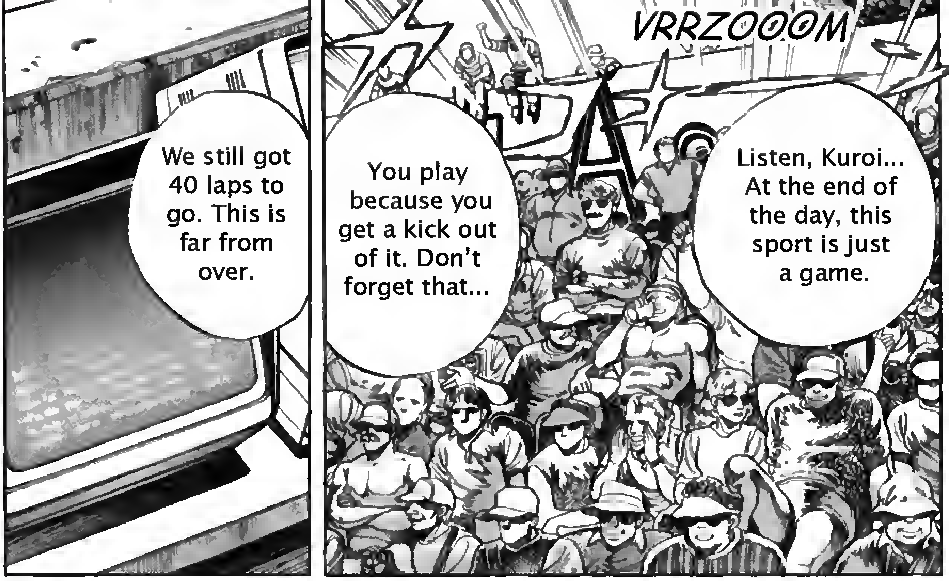

...
KSSHH
How are you feeling!?
Answer me, Gunma!
BEEP

Didn't I just tell ya...?
...but I feel ama-zing!
I don't know how I'm supposed to be feelin'...

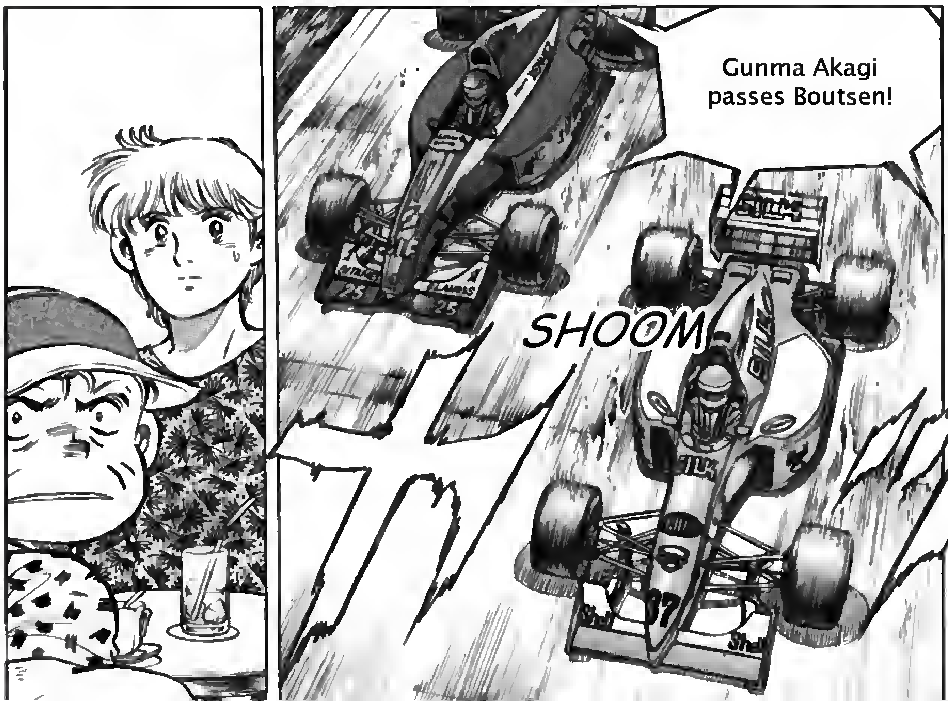

I just wanted to hear that again...
Ama-zing... huh?
TREMBLE

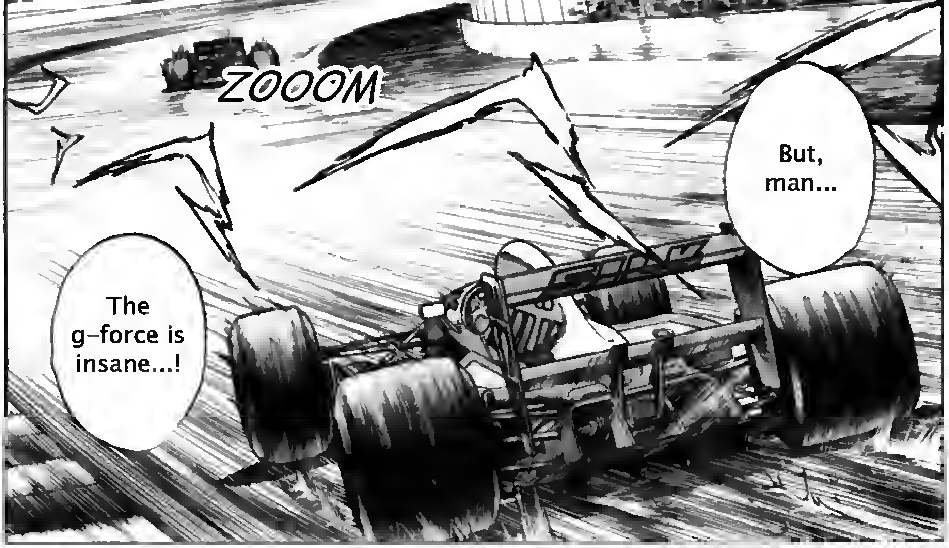
Whoa!
Gunma! I knew it'd be worth stickin' with you!

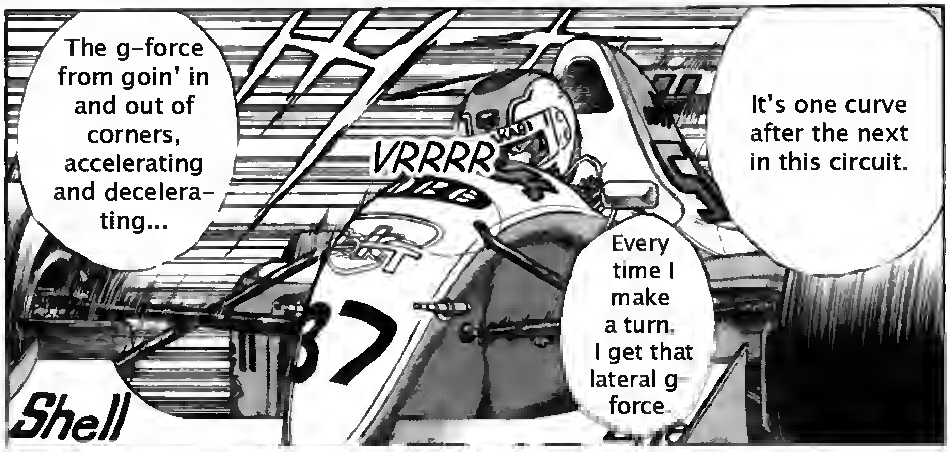

Geez ...
SKREE
Damn it! You made me shift down one gear too far!
VWOOSH


We still got 40 laps to go. This is far from over.
You play because you get a kick out of it. Don't forget that...
VRRZOOOM
Listen, Kuroi... At the end of the day, this sport is just a game.

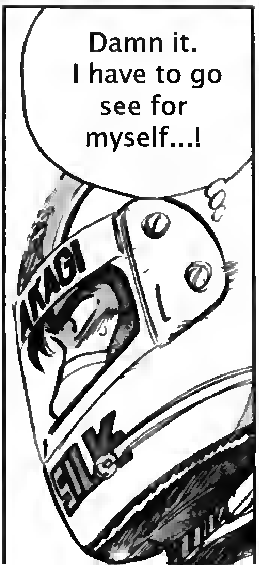
...you're not gonna last.
If you don't let yourself enjoy it...

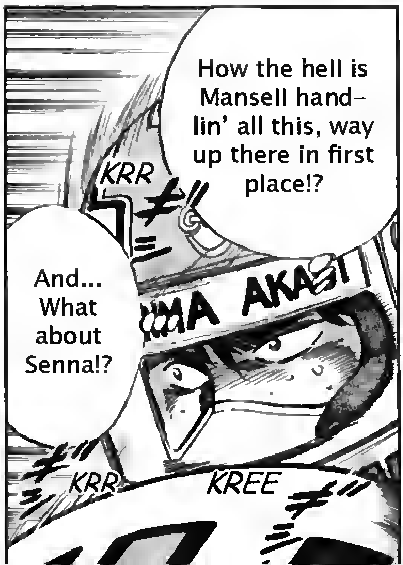

Gunma Akagi passes Boutsen!
SHOOM


ZOOOM
But, man...
The g-force is insane...!


The g-force from goin' in and out of corners, accelerating and decelera-ting...
VRRRR
It's one curve after the next in this circuit.
Every time I make a turn, I get that lateral g-force
Shell

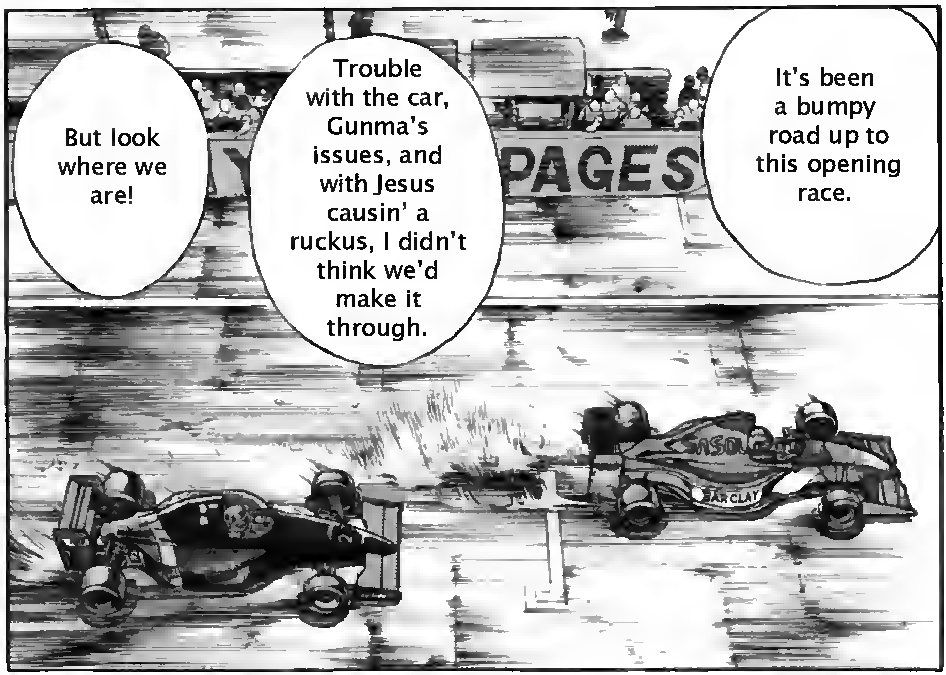
KRRR

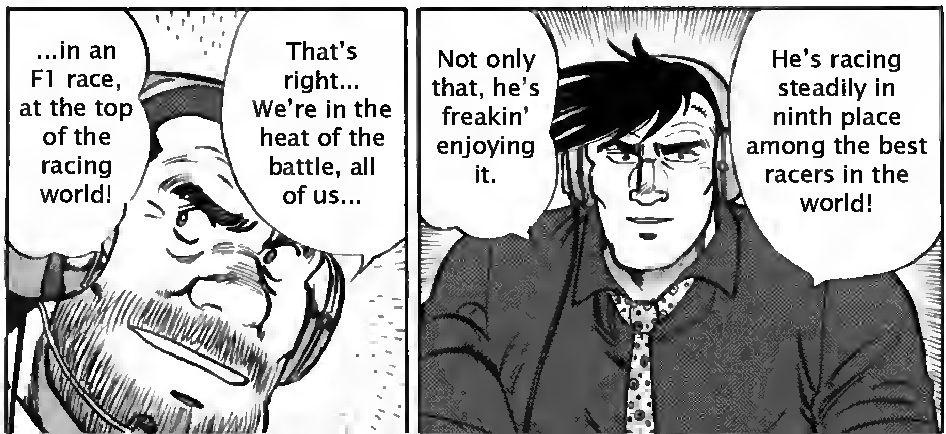

Damn it. I have to go see for myself...!
AKAGI

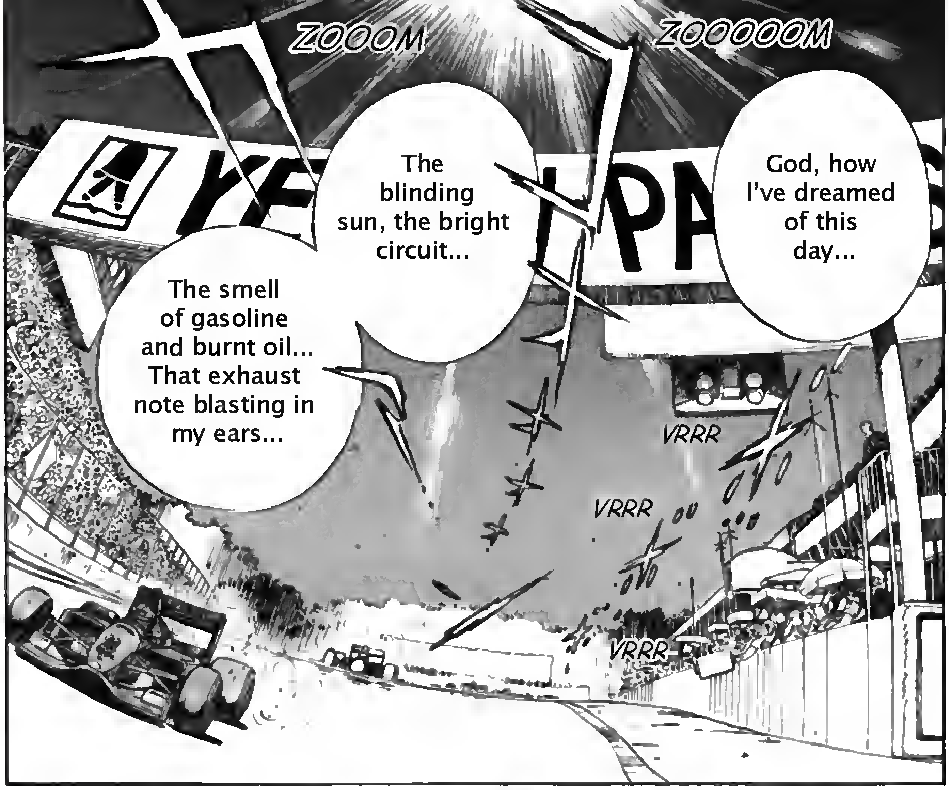

How the hell is Mansell hand-lin' all this, way up there in first place!?
KRR
And... What about Senna!?
AKAGI
KRR
KREE

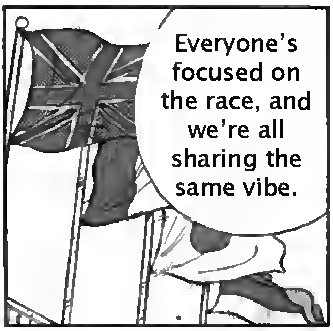
42
LAP
At this rate, we won't need a tire change.
YE OW PAGES
ZOOOOOOOM
Yeah.
The engine's holding out just fine, too.
Hey... Is everything all right with you?
You're gettin' a little too senti-mental there.
Man... It's like we just fell right into our life-long dreams.

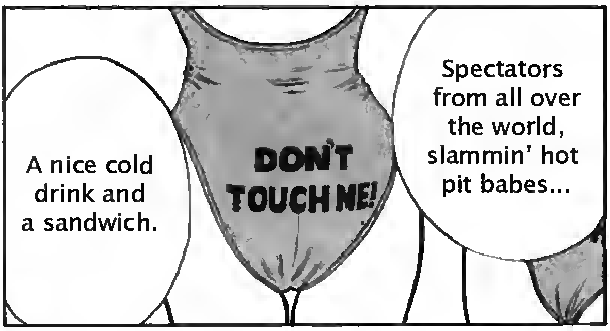
I'm pretty relieved too, to be honest.
No, I know. I get it.
So what if I am! I may not look it, but I can be a sentimental man at times!

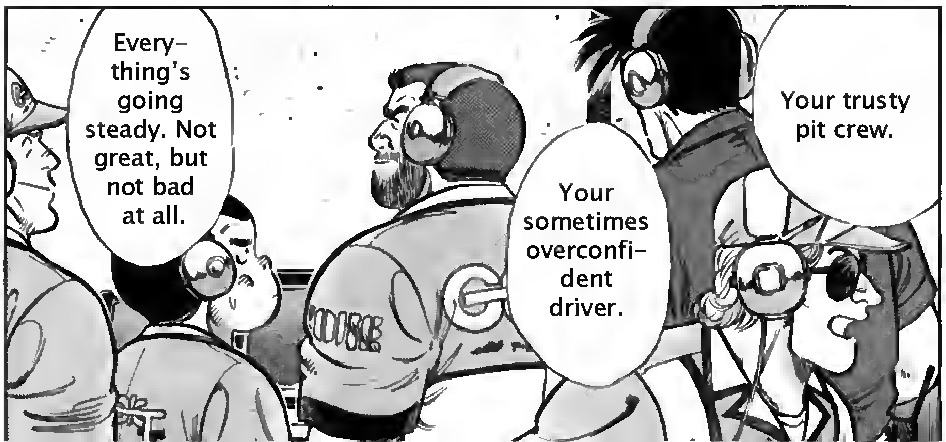

But look where we are!
Trouble with the car, Gunma's issues, and with Jesus causin' a ruckus, I didn't think we'd make it through.
It's been a bumpy road up to this opening race.

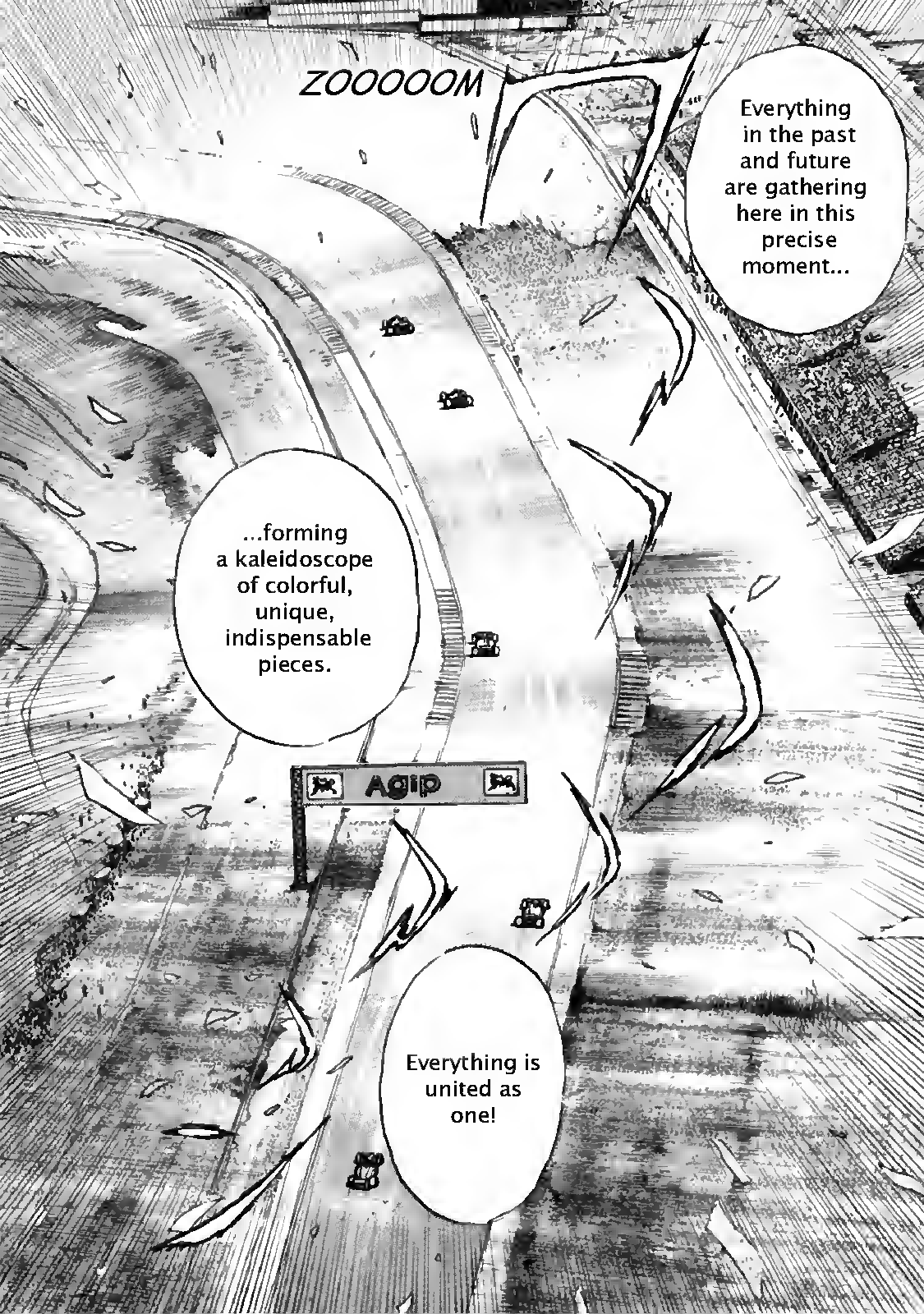

...in an F1 race, at the top of the racing world!
That's right... We're in the heat of the battle, all of us...
Not only that, he's freakin' enjoying it.
He's racing steadily in ninth place among the best racers in the world!


ZOOOM
ZOOOOOM
The blinding sun, the bright circuit...
God, how I've dreamed of this day...
The smell of gasoline and burnt oil... That exhaust note blasting in my ears...
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR

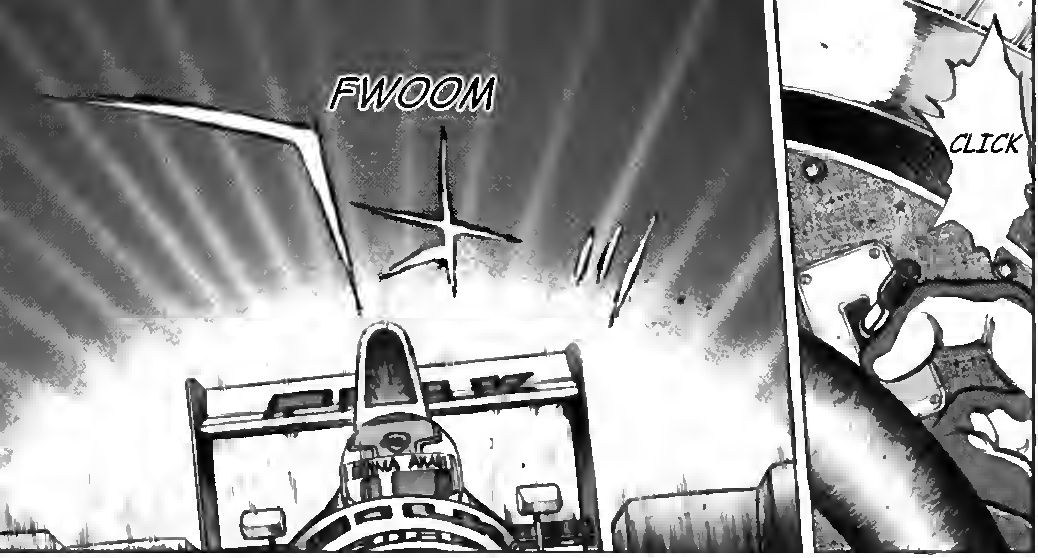

Everyone's focused on the race, and we're all sharing the same vibe.

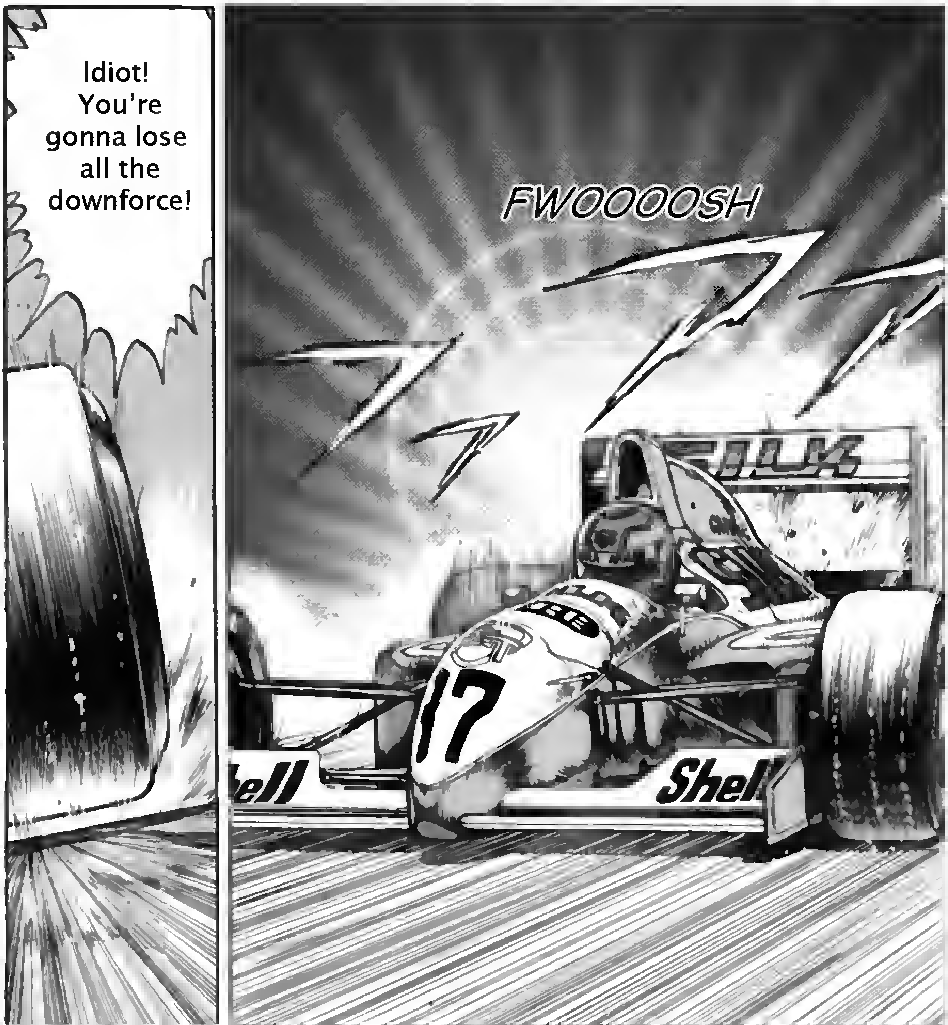

A nice cold drink and a sandwich.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
Spectators from all over the world, slammin' hot pit babes...


Every-thing's going steady. Not great, but not bad at all.
Your sometimes overconfi-dent driver.
Your trusty pit crew.

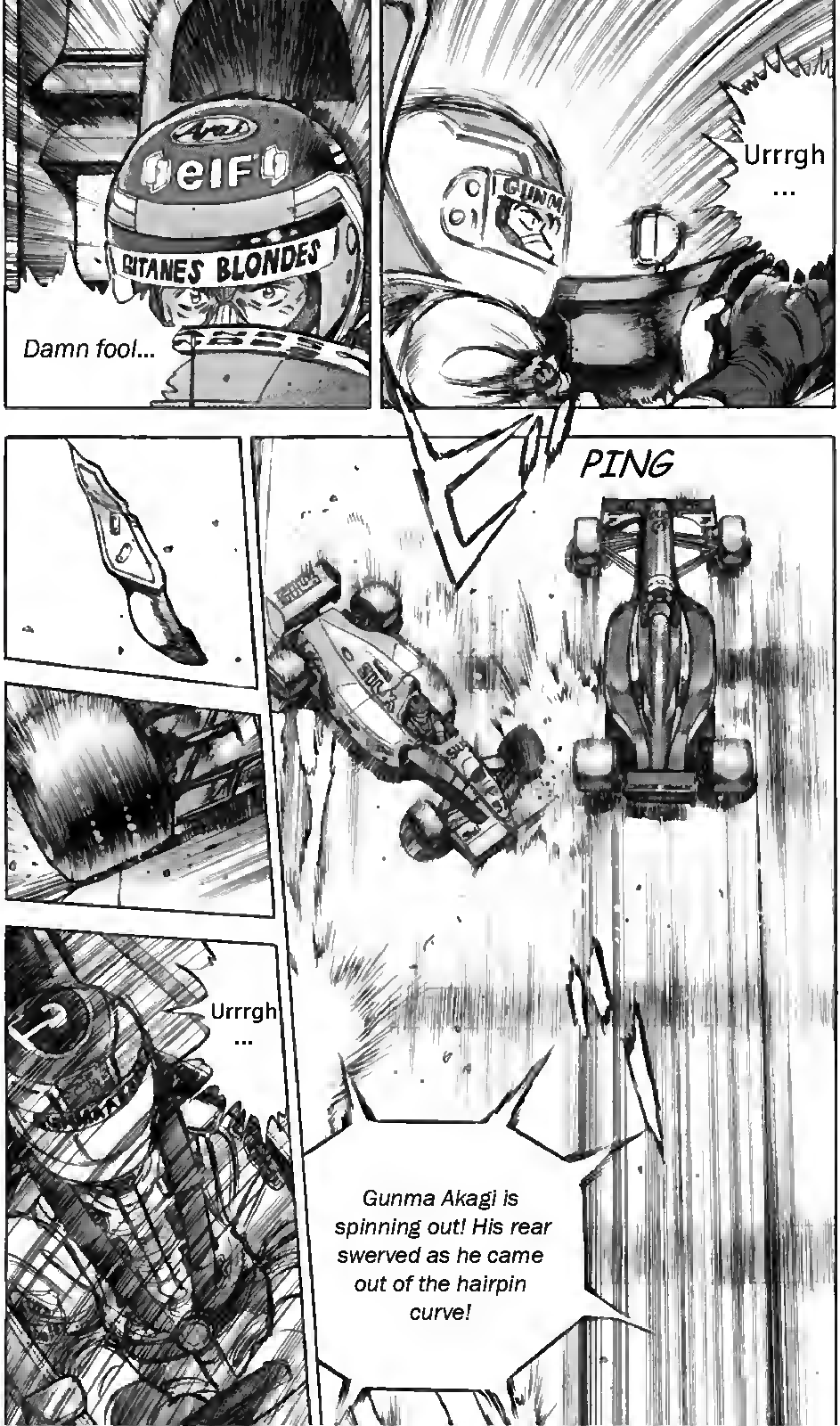

ZOOOOOM
Everything in the past and future are gathering here in this precise moment...
...forming a kaleidoscope of colorful, unique, indispensable pieces.
AGIP
Everything is united as one!

Wha...
I... I can't shift into third.
You're filled with bliss!
And when you recog-nize that...
I'm gonna have to skip third...
It's no use... Crap.
Man, I told you...!
What!? Are you serious...?
!?
Gunma, the grip...!
Gunma... No way! If you do that, you won't have any grip...
Tamotsu, I'm gonna blast through in second, and activate the dolphin paint!

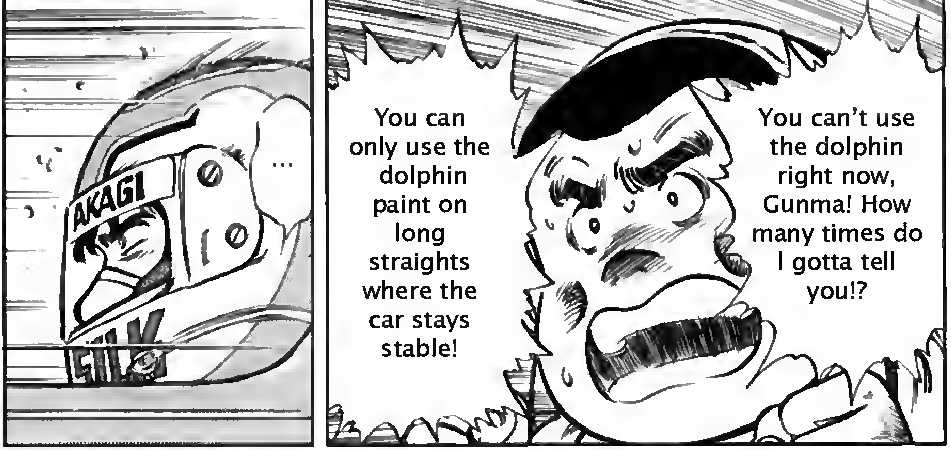

FWOOM
CLICK

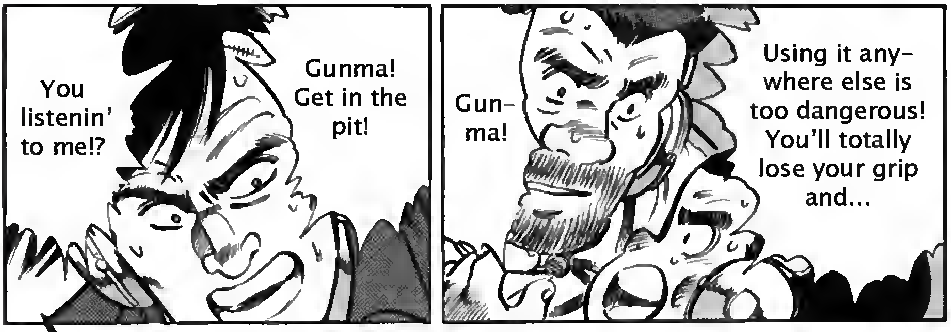

Idiot! You're gonna lose all the downforce!
FWOOOOSH
17
Shell

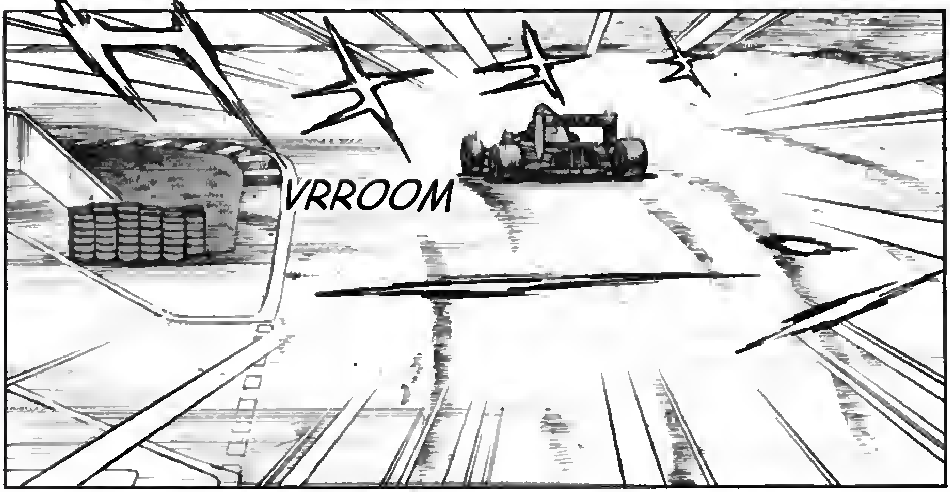
VWOOSH
SCREEK
GUNMA
Damn, the tail...
VWOOOSH
GARAGE 33
SILK
Shell
EISEI

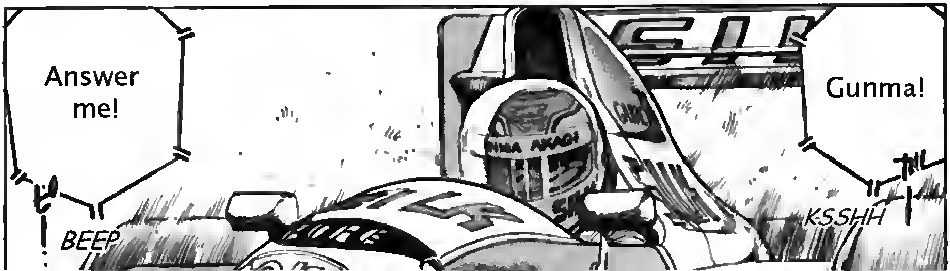

elf
BITANES BLONDES
Damn fool...
GUNMA
Urrrgh
...
PING
Urrrgh
...
Gunma Akagi is spinning out! His rear swerved as he came out of the hairpin curve!

GSSHHH
Agip
GUNMA AKAGI
BREEHHH
Damn! I screwed up big time...
You all right, Gunma!?
Don't push it, Gunma! Make a pit stop!
Gunma!
Gunma's back on the circuit, but he's damaged his front wing!
SCREEEECH

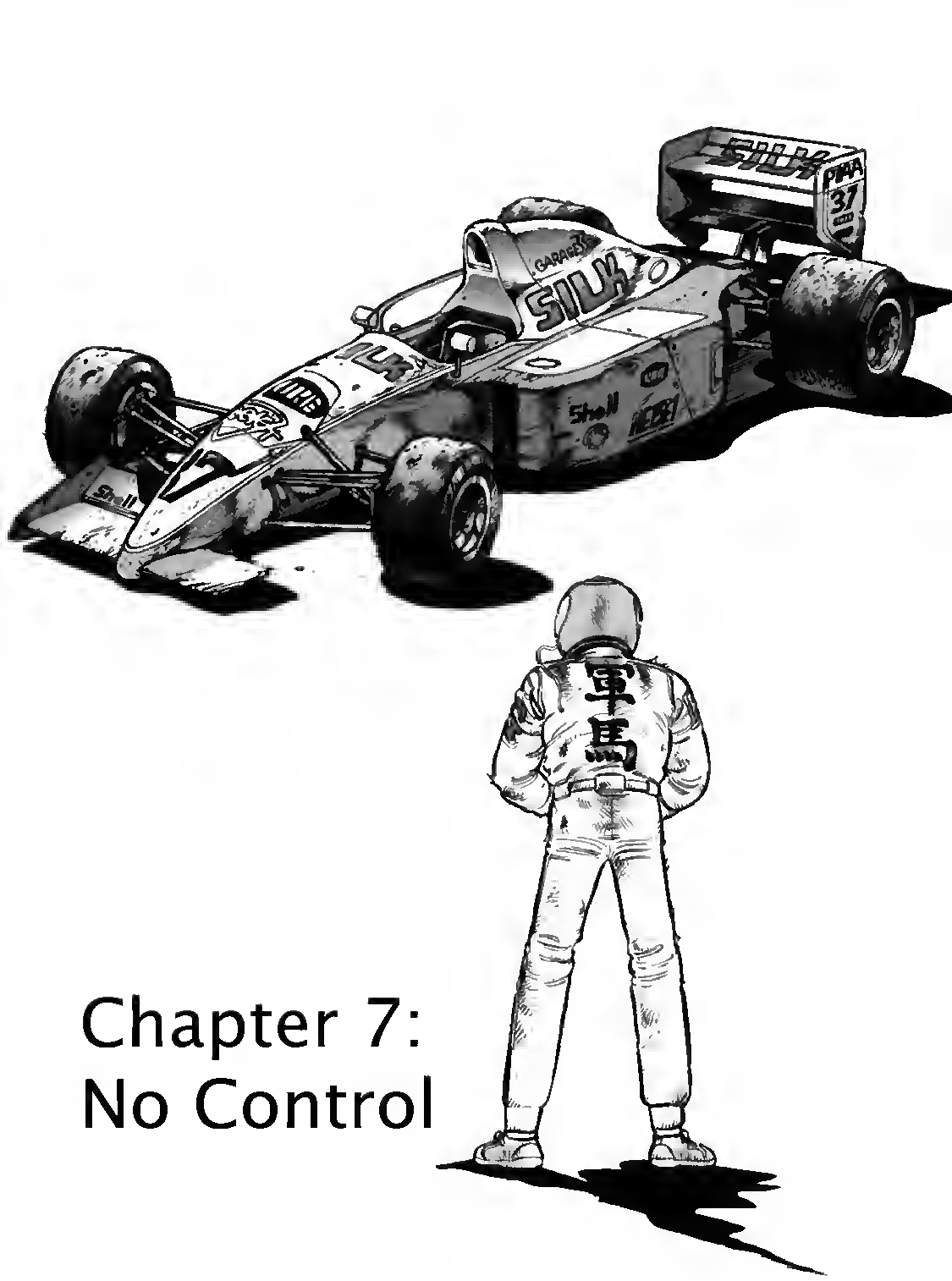

AKAGI
...
You can only use the dolphin paint on long straights where the car stays stable!
You can't use the dolphin right now, Gunma! How many times do I gotta tell you!?


You listenin' to me!?
Gunma! Get in the pit!
Gun-ma!
Using it any-where else is too dangerous! You'll totally lose your grip and...

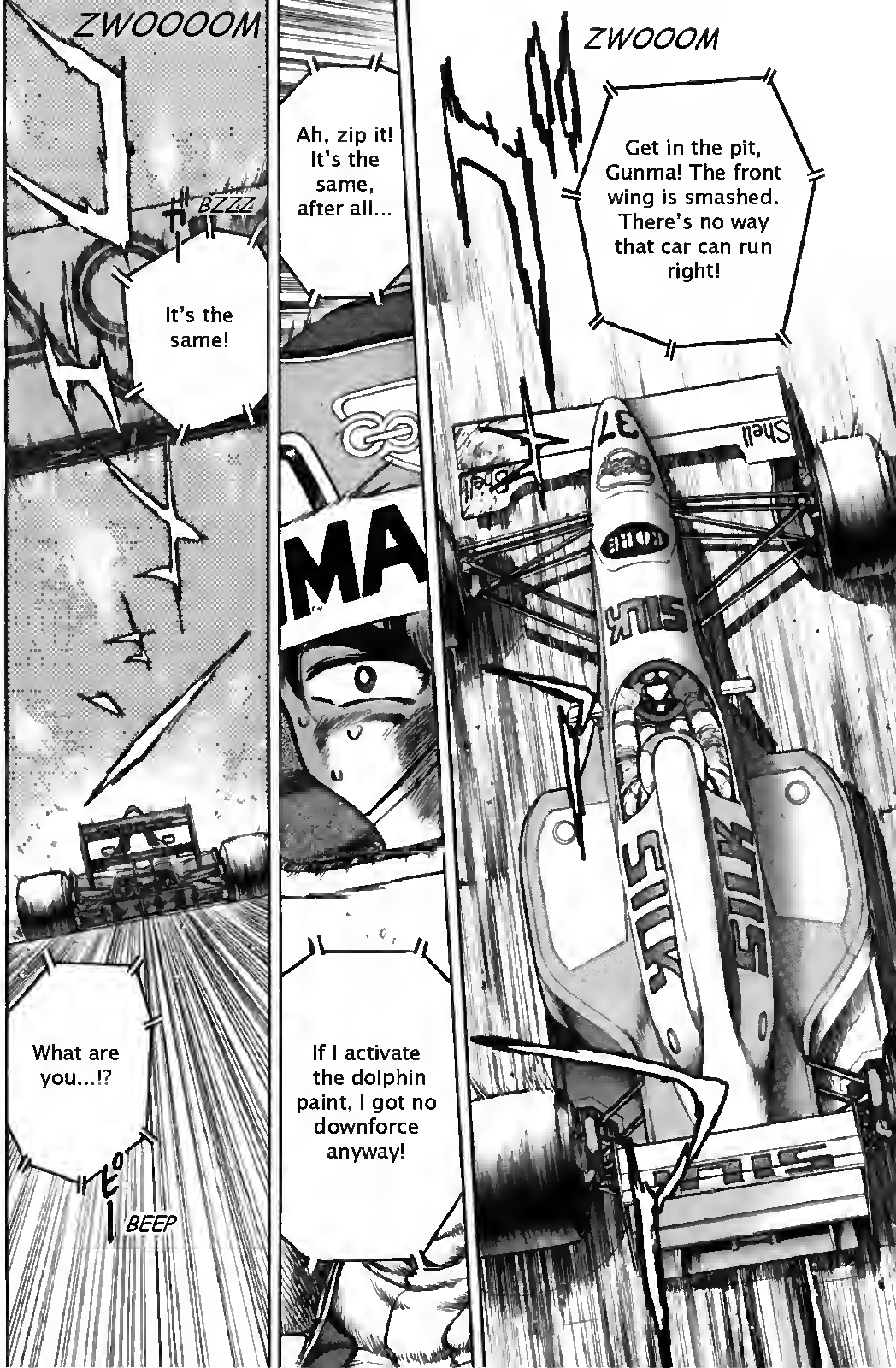

VRROOM


Answer me!
BEEP
Gunma!
KSSHH

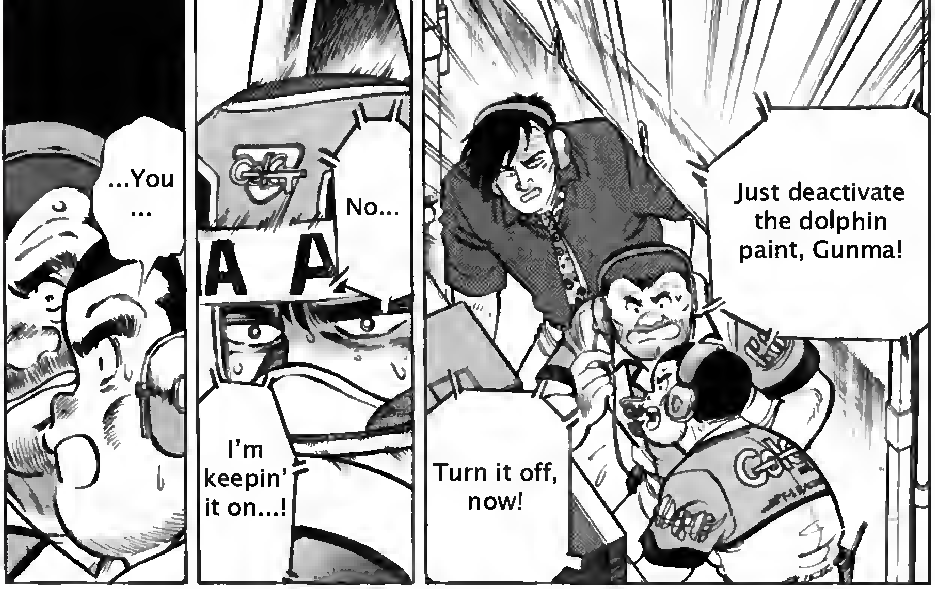
YAK
YAK
He's all right, Auntie. Looks like he's back on track.
Yeah ...
...gets in front of me!
Nobody ...
GUNMA AKAGI
As long as he doesn't snap...
Gunma...
More like an out of control merry-go-round...
A kaleidoscope, huh?
WHEW

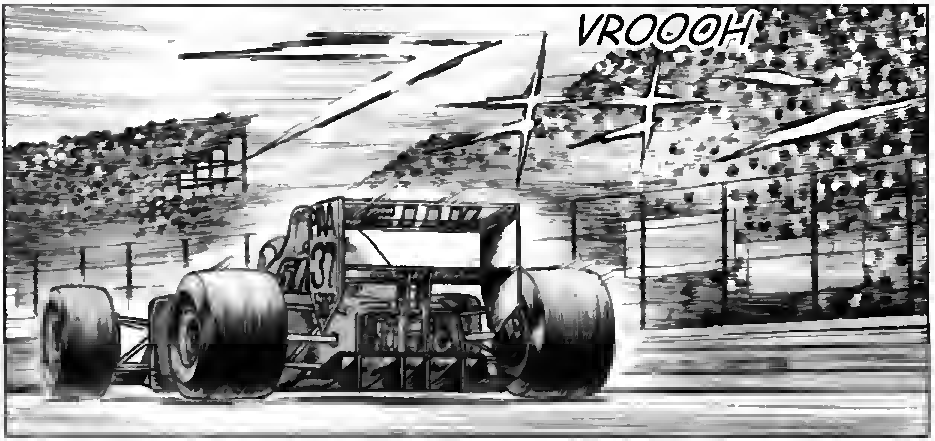


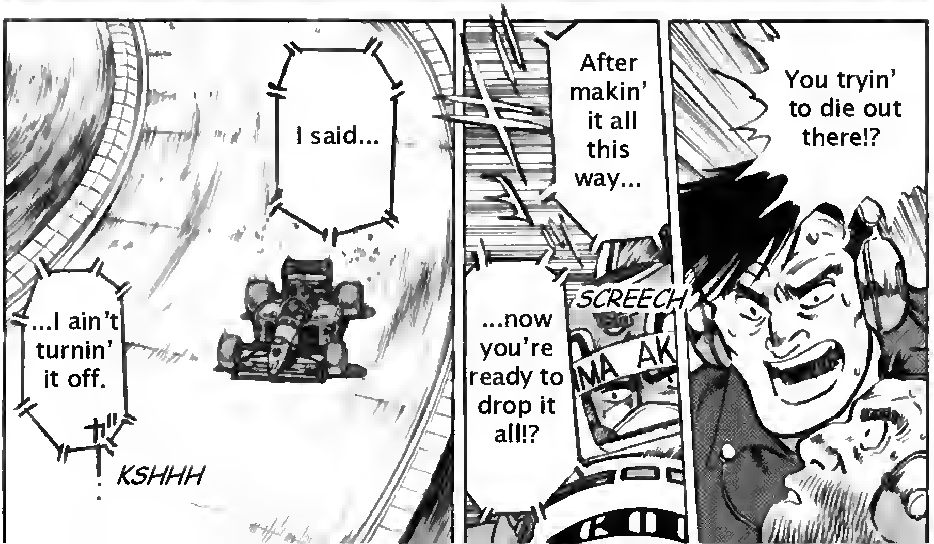
Chapter 7: No Control

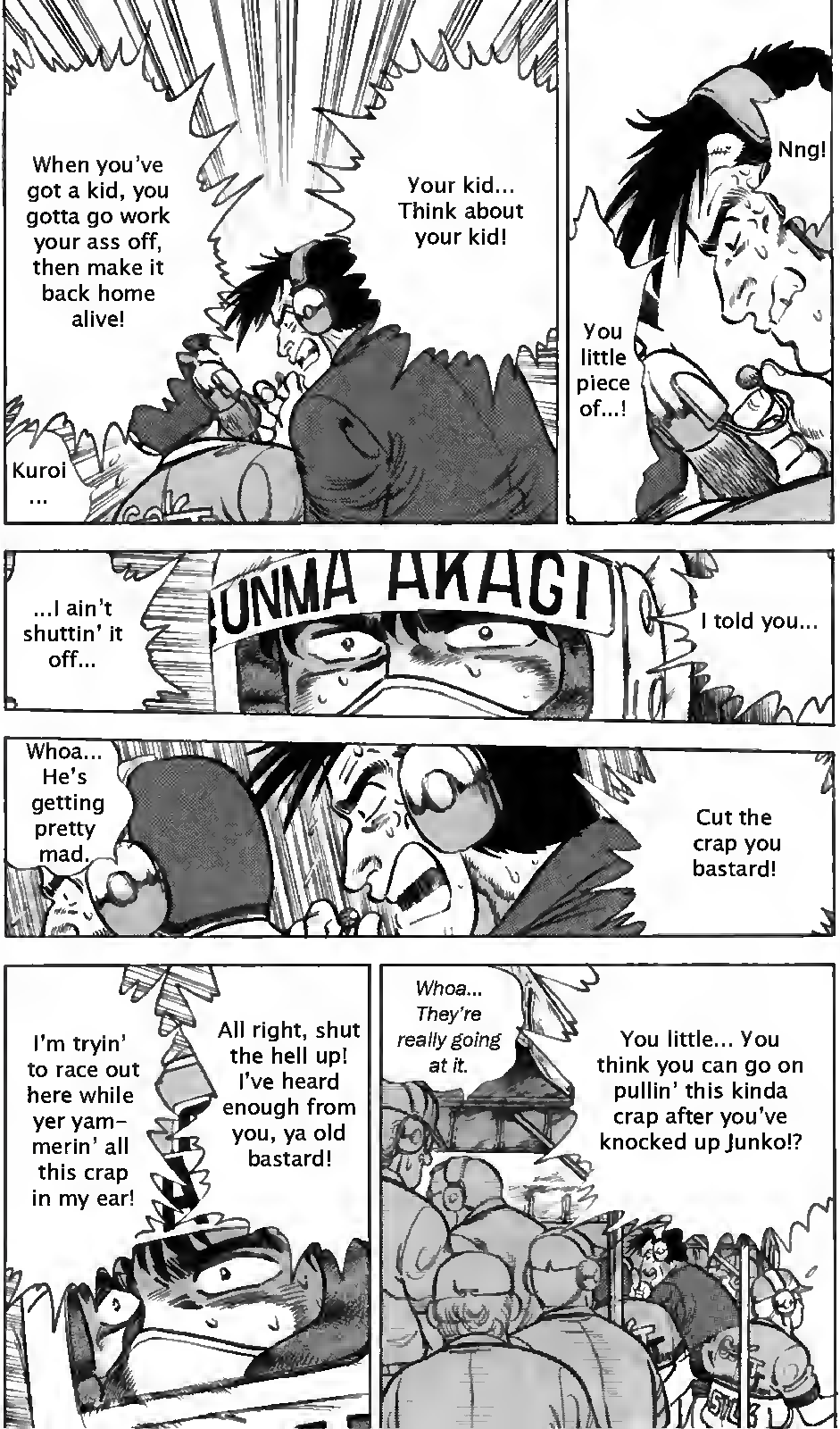

ZWOOOOM
BZZZ
It's the same!
What are you...!?
BEEP
Ah, zip it! It's the same, after all...
If I activate the dolphin paint, I got no downforce anyway!
ZWOOOM
Get in the pit, Gunma! The front wing is smashed. There's no way that car can run right!
37
Shell
SUK

VWOOOOOSH
Gunma Akagi ran into Boutsen and damaged his front wing, but he still hasn't gone into the pit!
Why isn't he entering the pit!? Did he miss his chance!?
Or did he decide that the damage isn't as bad as it looks, and to keep going!?
Gunma!
AGI
KSHHH
He snapped...
G... Gun-ma...
GLANCE

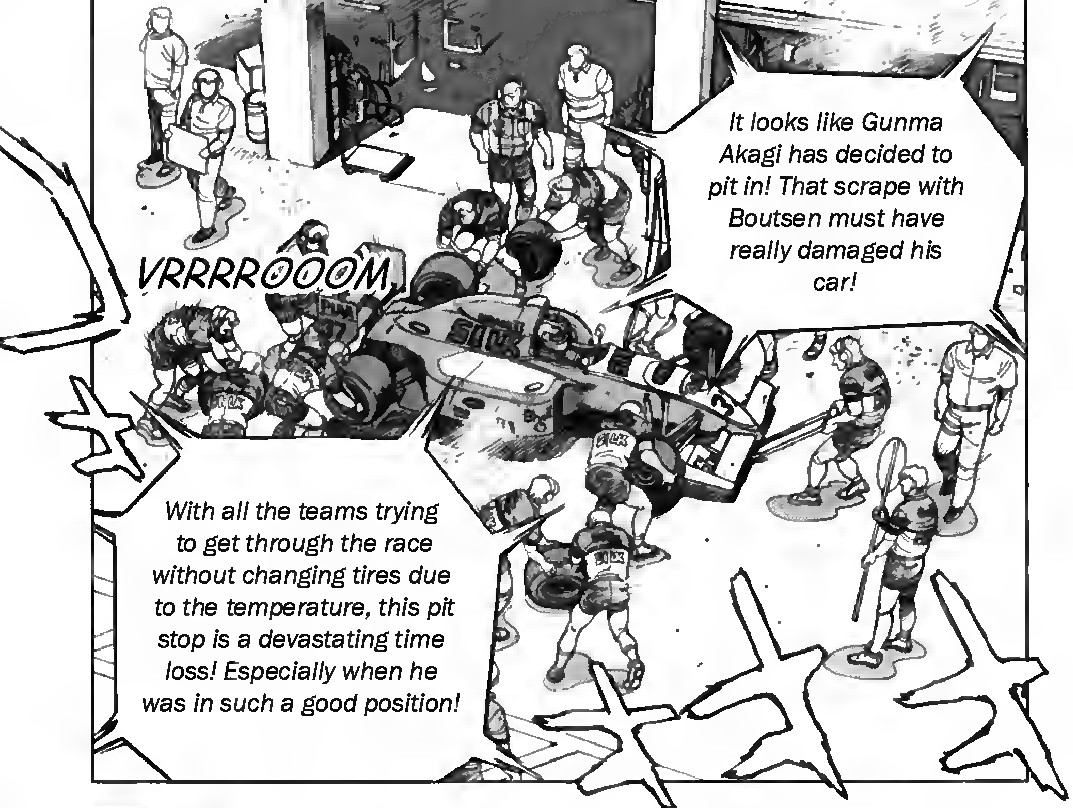

...You ...
No...
I'm keepin' it on...!
Turn it off, now!
Just deactivate the dolphin paint, Gunma!

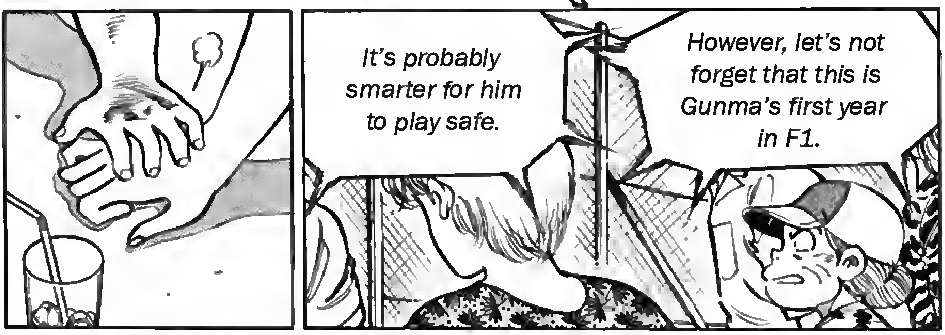

VROOOH


I said...
...I ain't turnin' it off.
KSHHH
After makin' it all this way...
...now you're ready to drop it all!?
SCREECH
You tryin' to die out there!?


When you've got a kid, you gotta go work your ass off, then make it back home alive!
Your kid... Think about your kid!
Kuroi ...
Nng!
You little piece of...!
...I ain't shuttin' it off...
GUNMA AKAGI
I told you...
Whoa... He's getting pretty mad.
Cut the crap you bastard!
I'm tryin' to race out here while yer yammerin' all this crap in my ear!
All right, shut the hell up! I've heard enough from you, ya old bastard!
Whoa... They're really going at it.
You little... You think you can go on pullin' this kinda crap after you've knocked up Junko!?

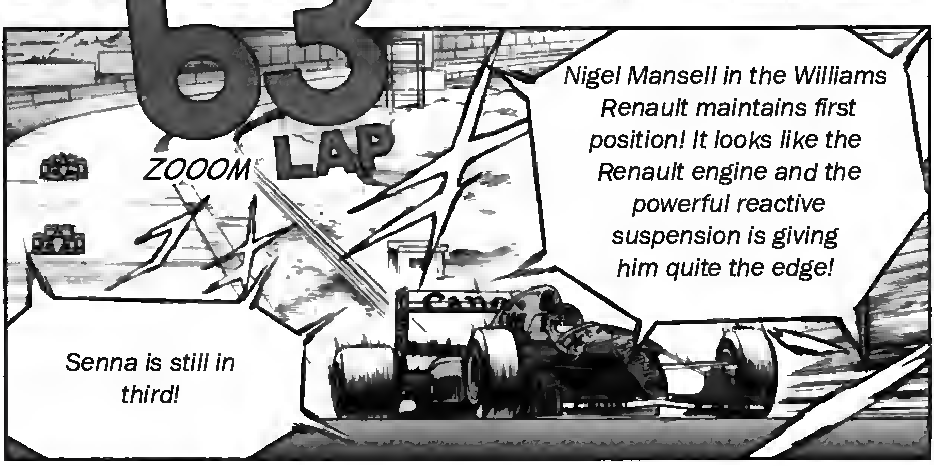
GUNMA AKA
...
Over!
Get back in the freakin' pit, Gunma!
...
Make it quick!
Change the front cowl! And the tires too!
GUNMA AKAGI
ZOOOM
Here he comes!

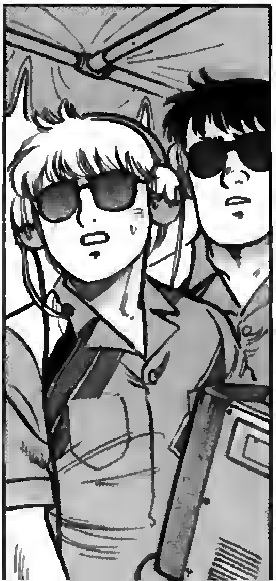

VRRRROOOM
It looks like Gunma Akagi has decided to pit in! That scrape with Boutsen must have really damaged his car!
With all the teams trying to get through the race without changing tires due to the temperature, this pit stop is a devastating time loss! Especially when he was in such a good position!

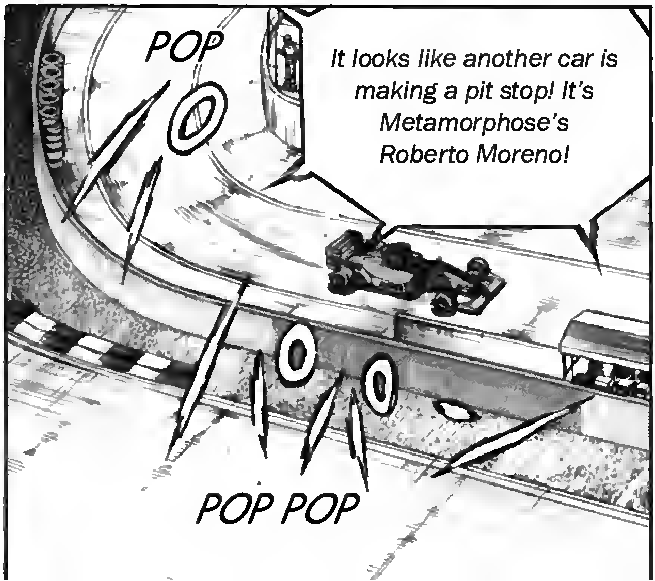

It's probably smarter for him to play safe.
However, let's not forget that this is Gunma's first year in F1.

As long as he keeps racing, he will have his chance!
Yes, I'm relieved too.
Auntie ...

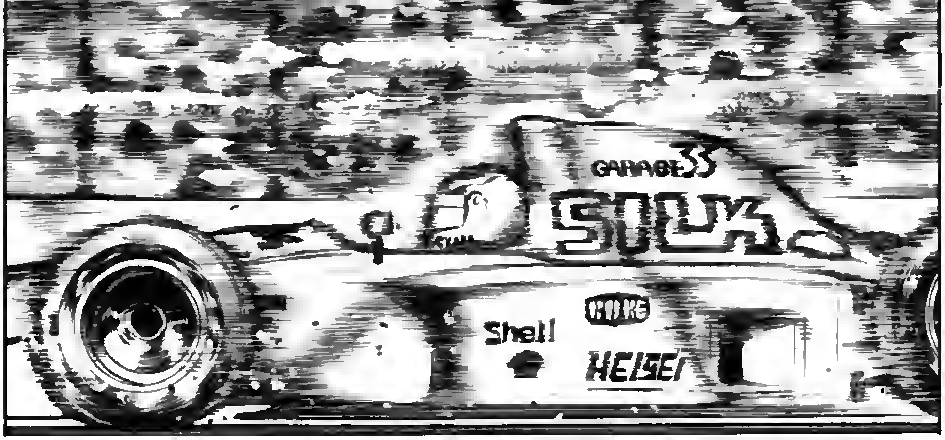
BREEEHH
Gunma Akagi has dropped several places, but is now back on the course!


63
LAP
ZOOOM
Nigel Mansell in the Williams Renault maintains first position! It looks like the Renault engine and the powerful reactive suspension is giving him quite the edge!
Senna is still in third!



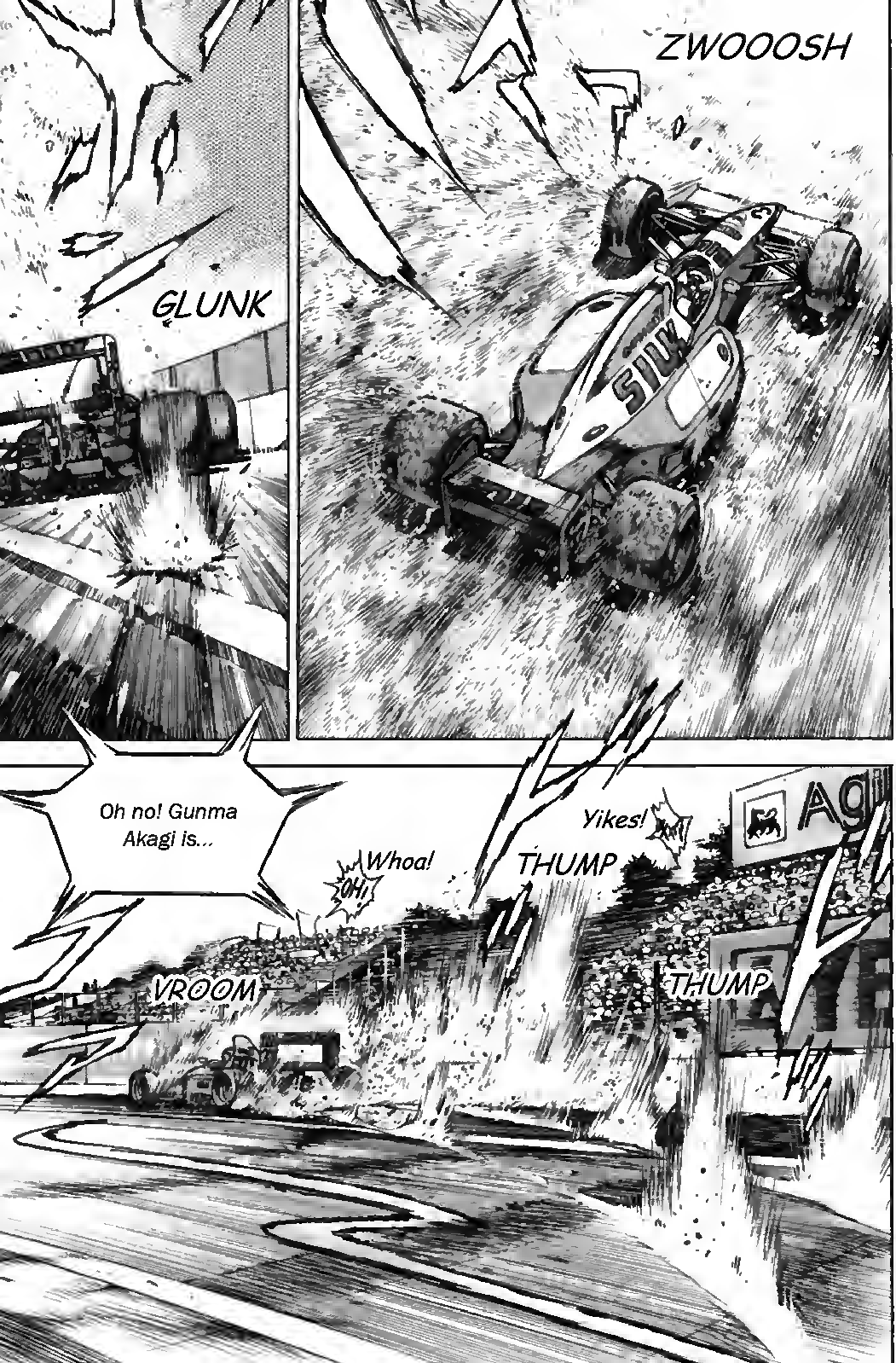

POP
It looks like another car is making a pit stop! It's Metamorphose's Roberto Moreno!
POP POP

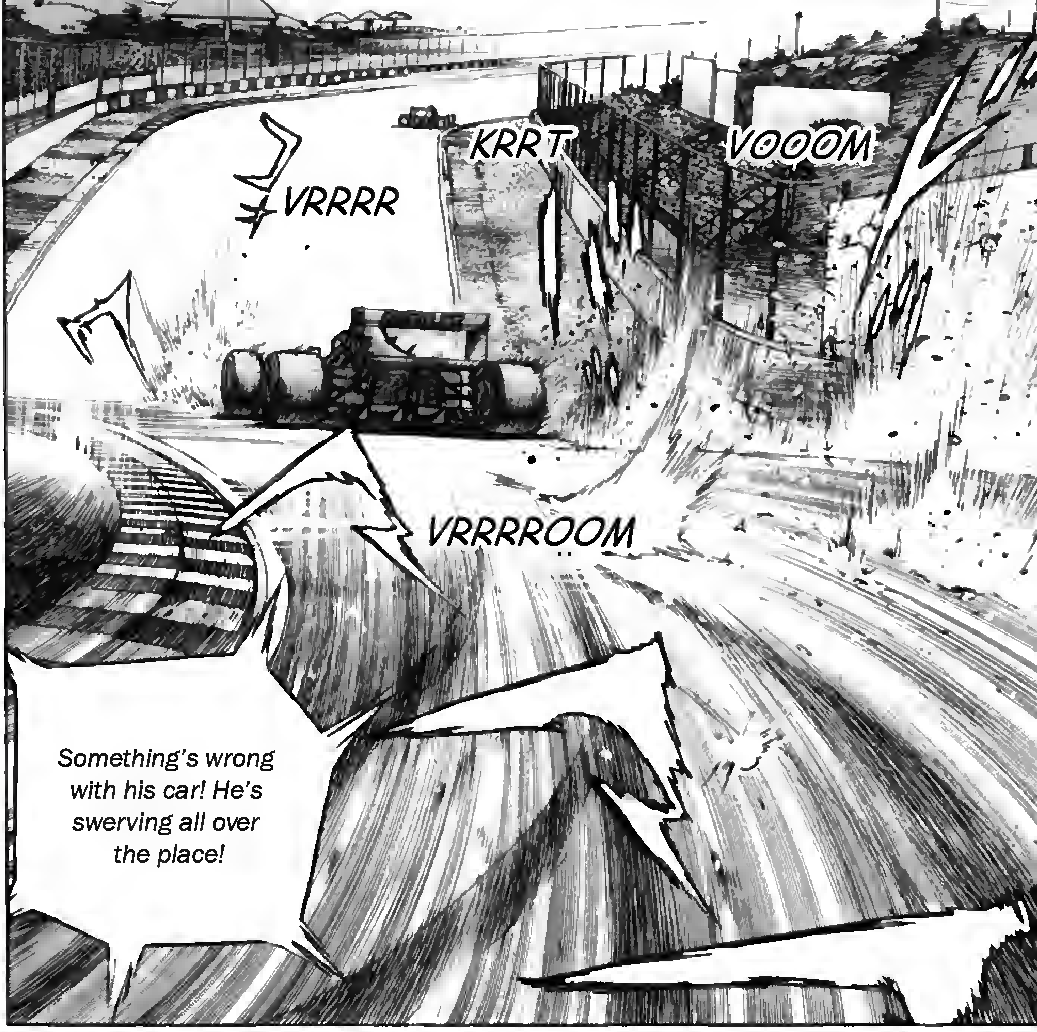
I can't get the RPM up. The engine's shot!
METAMORPHOSE
RENAULT
Oh, what a shame!
Unfortu-nately, yeah.
We for-feit?
Hmph!
?
Heh... The engine's shot, huh? You screwed it up!
!?
VRRR
PTOO
...
How many millions of yen did this just cost you, Yuma?

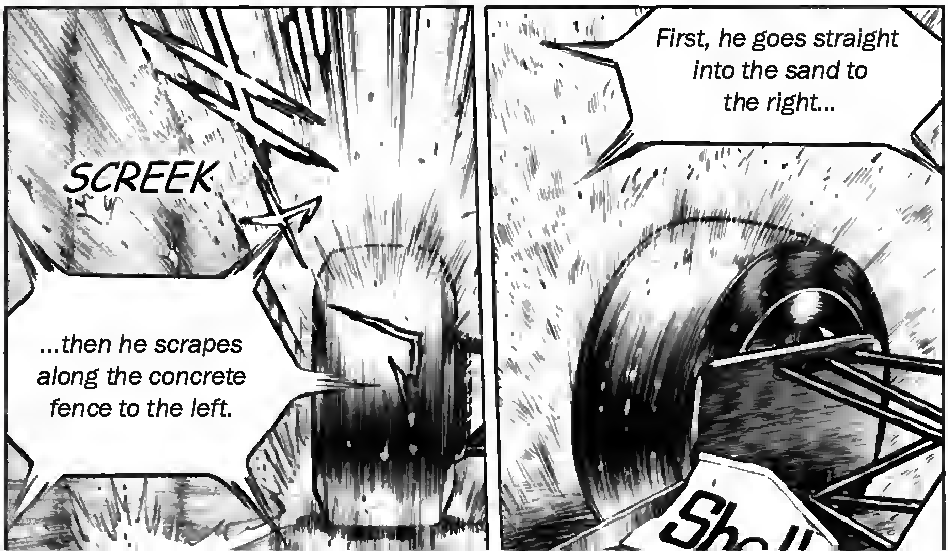

GARAGE 33
SUK
Shell
HEISEI

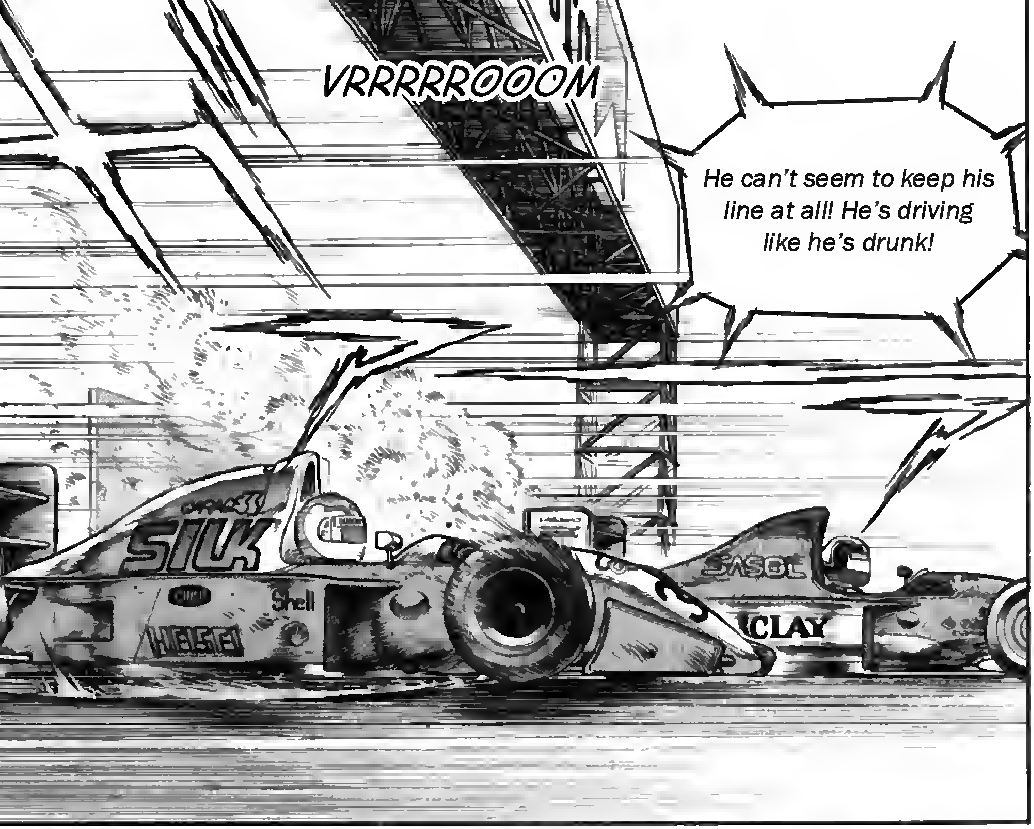
What the...
Huh?
What is that!?
MOTHERHOOD
RENAULT

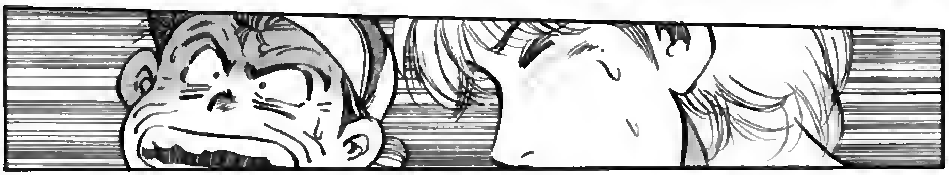
Man, he really overshot that one! He was weaving all over on the home straight!
That guy's going straight into the tire fence.
YELLO
ZWISHHHH...


GLUNK
ZWOOOSH
Oh no! Gunma Akagi is...
Whoa!
OH!
Yikes!
THUMP
VROOM
THUMP


KRRT
VOOOM
VRRRR
VRRRROOM
Something's wrong with his car! He's swerving all over the place!


First, he goes straight into the sand to the right...
SCREEK
...then he scrapes along the concrete fence to the left.

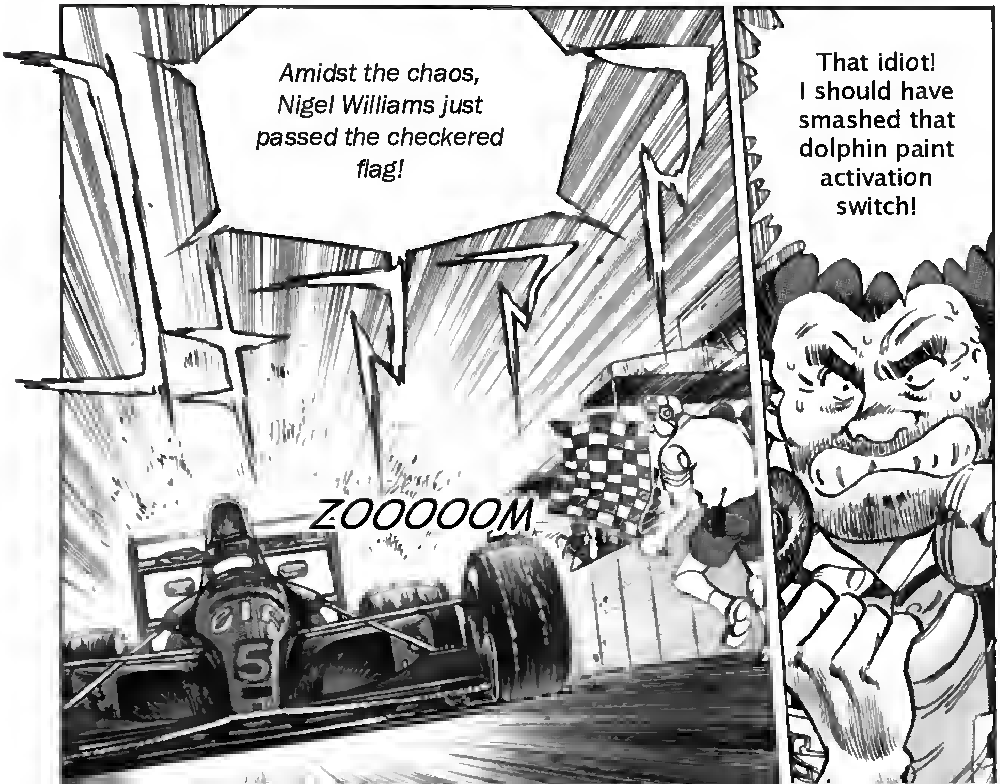

VRRRROOOM
He can't seem to keep his line at all! He's driving like he's drunk!
SILK
Shell
SASOL
CLAY

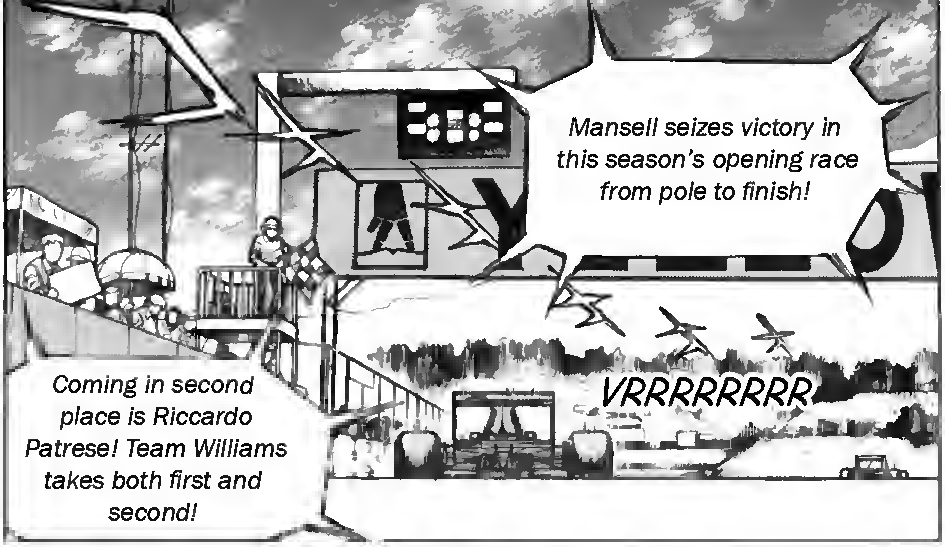


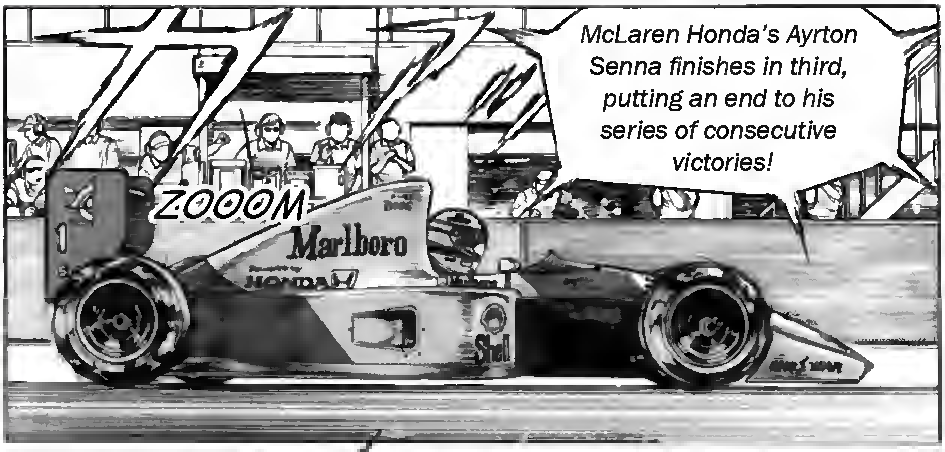
...this is dangerous for the other racers!
He seems to be trying to keep his balance to deal with some sort of mechanical trouble, but...
SILK

It's a black flag!
37
FLAP
37

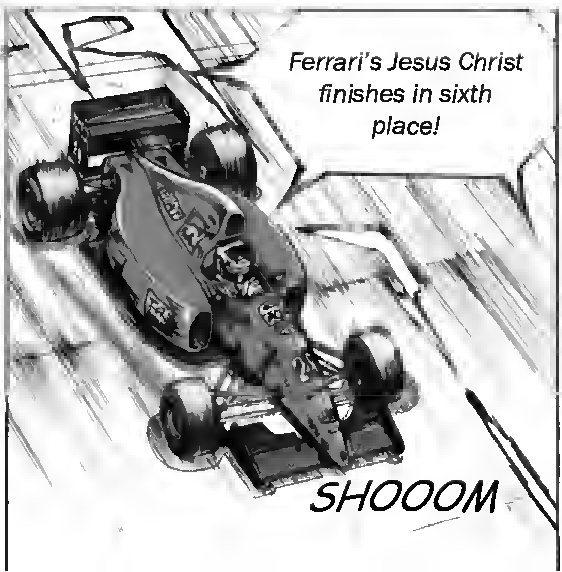
BAM
Damn it!
The black flag has been raised to stop Gunma Akagi and his dangerous driving!

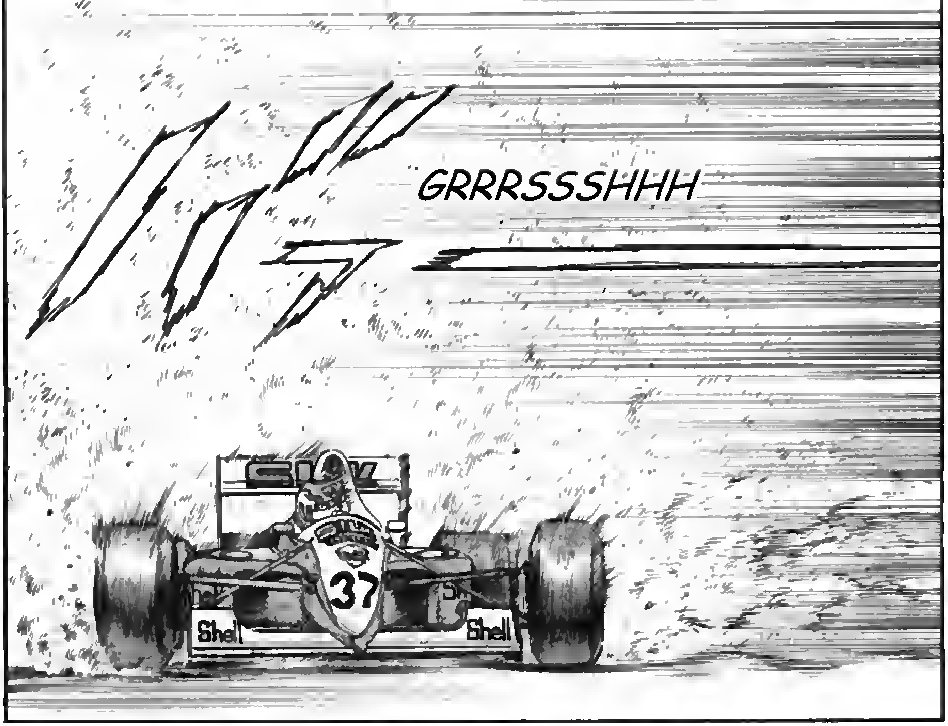

Amidst the chaos, Nigel Williams just passed the checkered flag!
ZOOOOOM
5
That idiot! I should have smashed that dolphin paint activation switch!

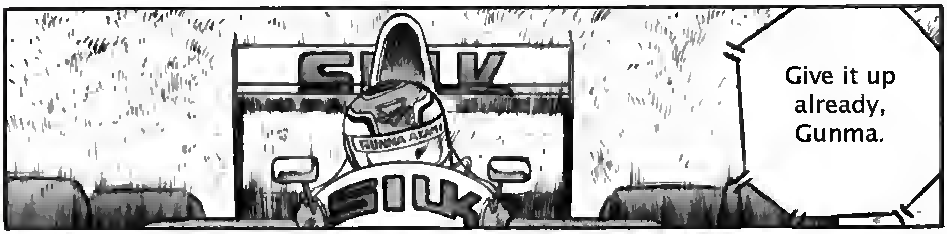

Mansell seizes victory in this season's opening race from pole to finish!
VRRRRRRRR
Coming in second place is Riccardo Patrese! Team Williams takes both first and second!

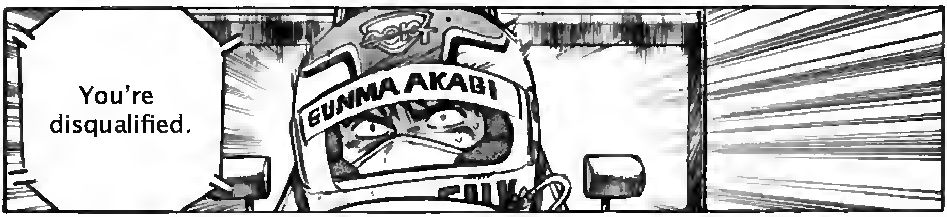

McLaren Honda's Ayrton Senna finishes in third, putting an end to his series of consecutive victories!
ZOOOM
Marlboro
HONDA
Shell

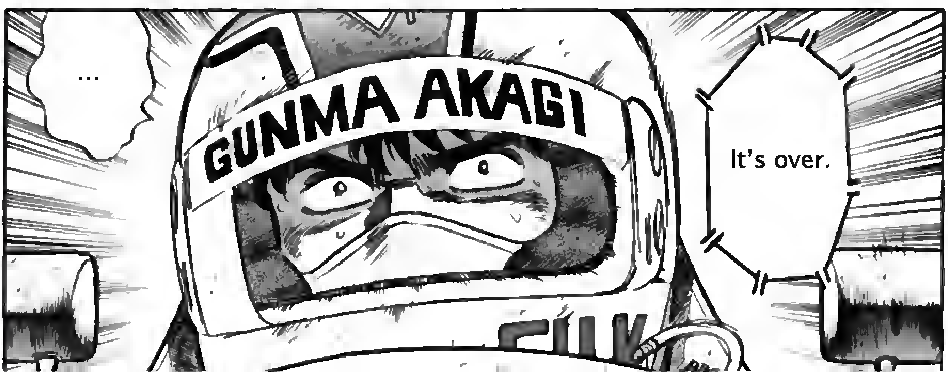
VROOM
Aguri Suzuki finishes in eighth!

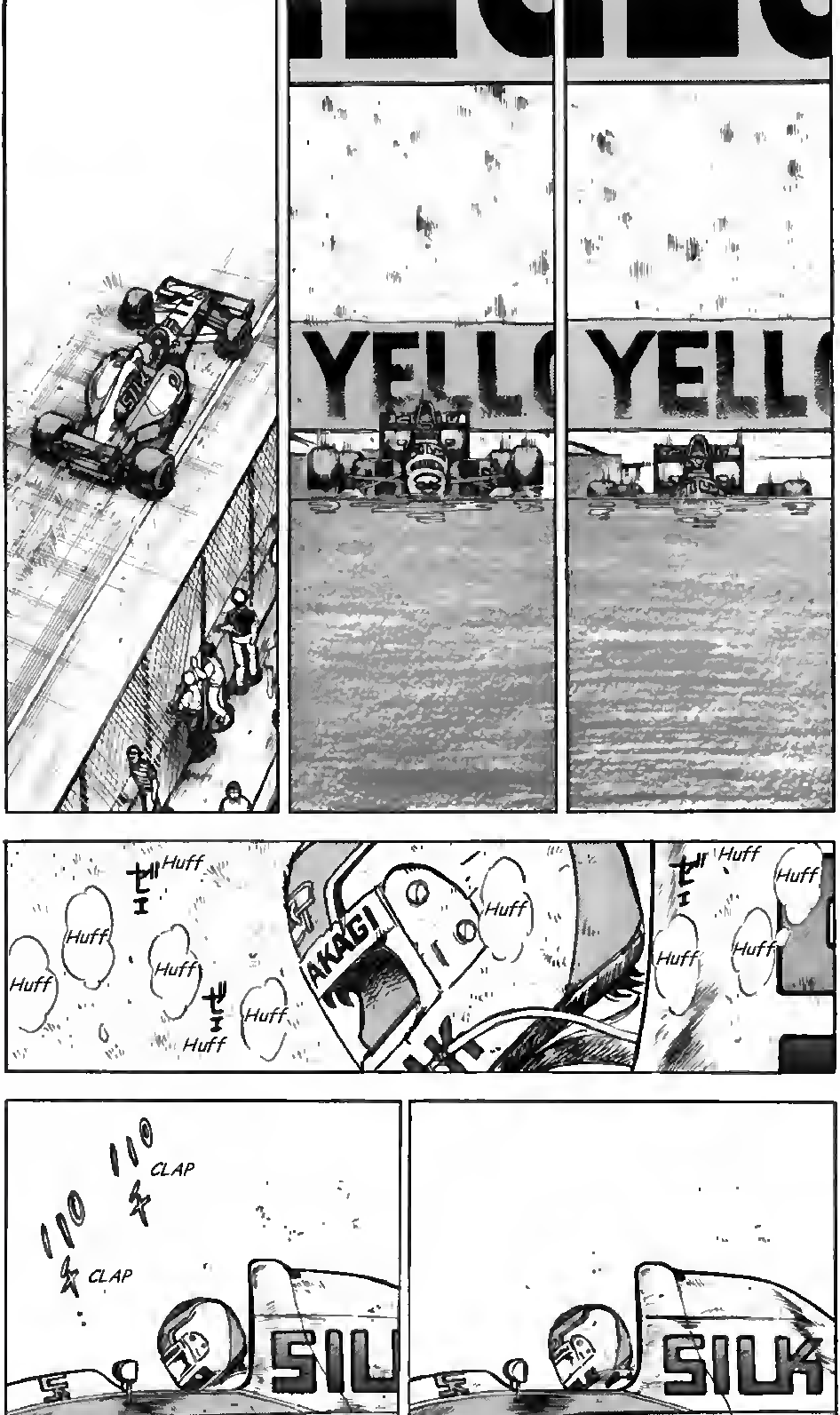

Ferrari's Jesus Christ finishes in sixth place!
SHOOOM

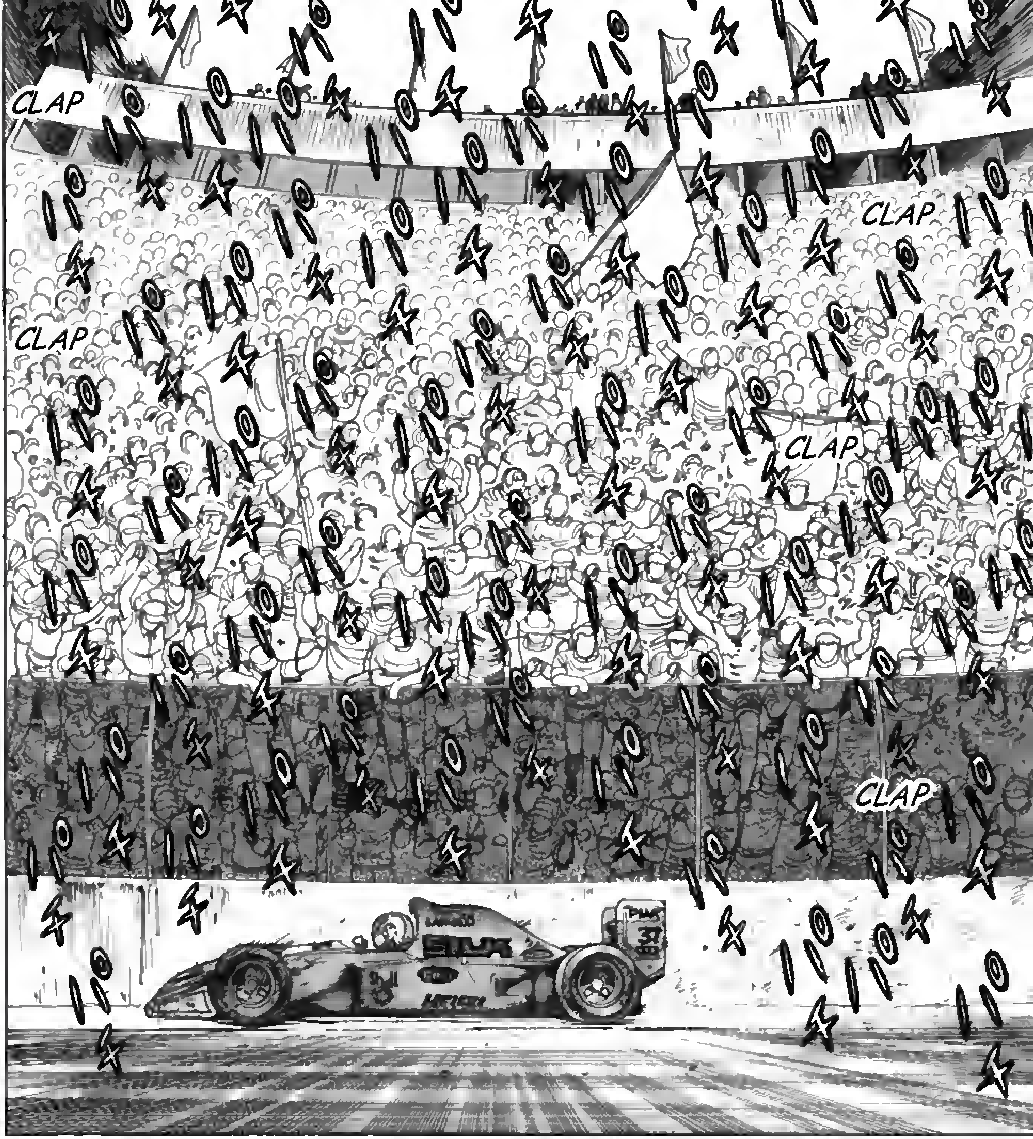

GRRRSSSHHH
37
Shell
Shell


Give it up already, Gunma.

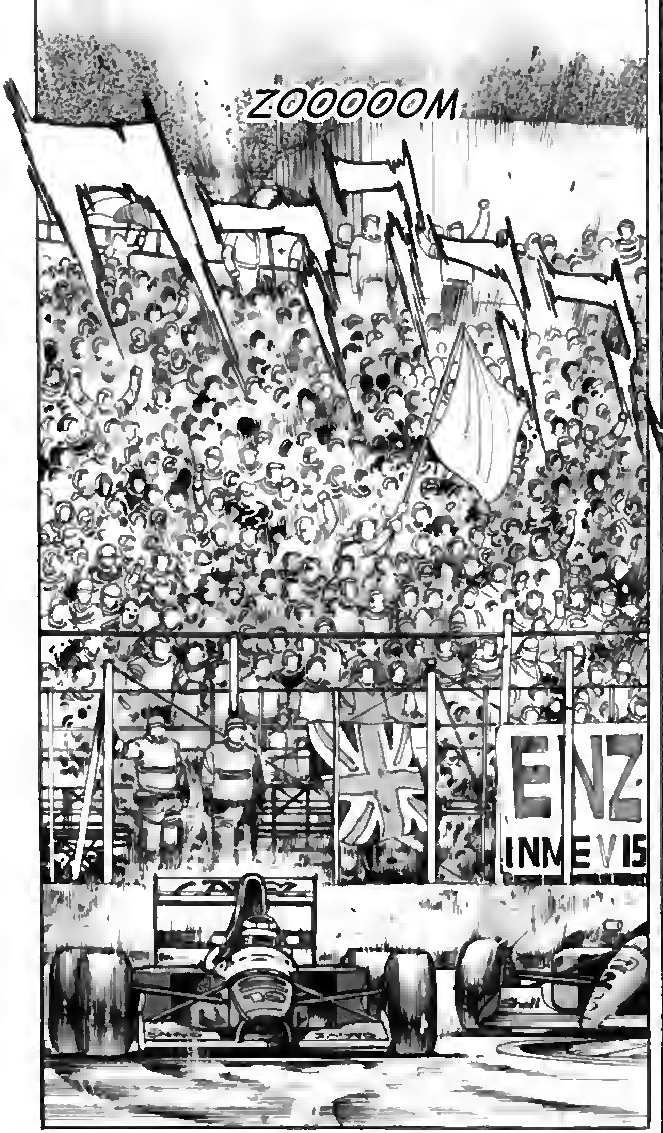

You're disqualified.
GUNMA AKAGI

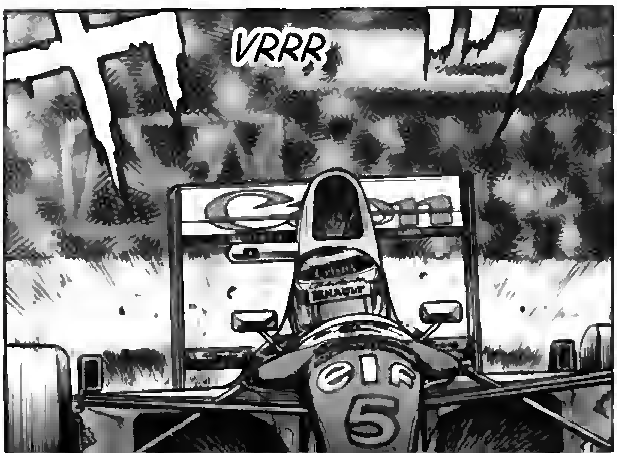

...
GUNMA AKAGI
It's over.


YELL
YELL
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
AKAGI
CLAP
CLAP
SIU
SIUK

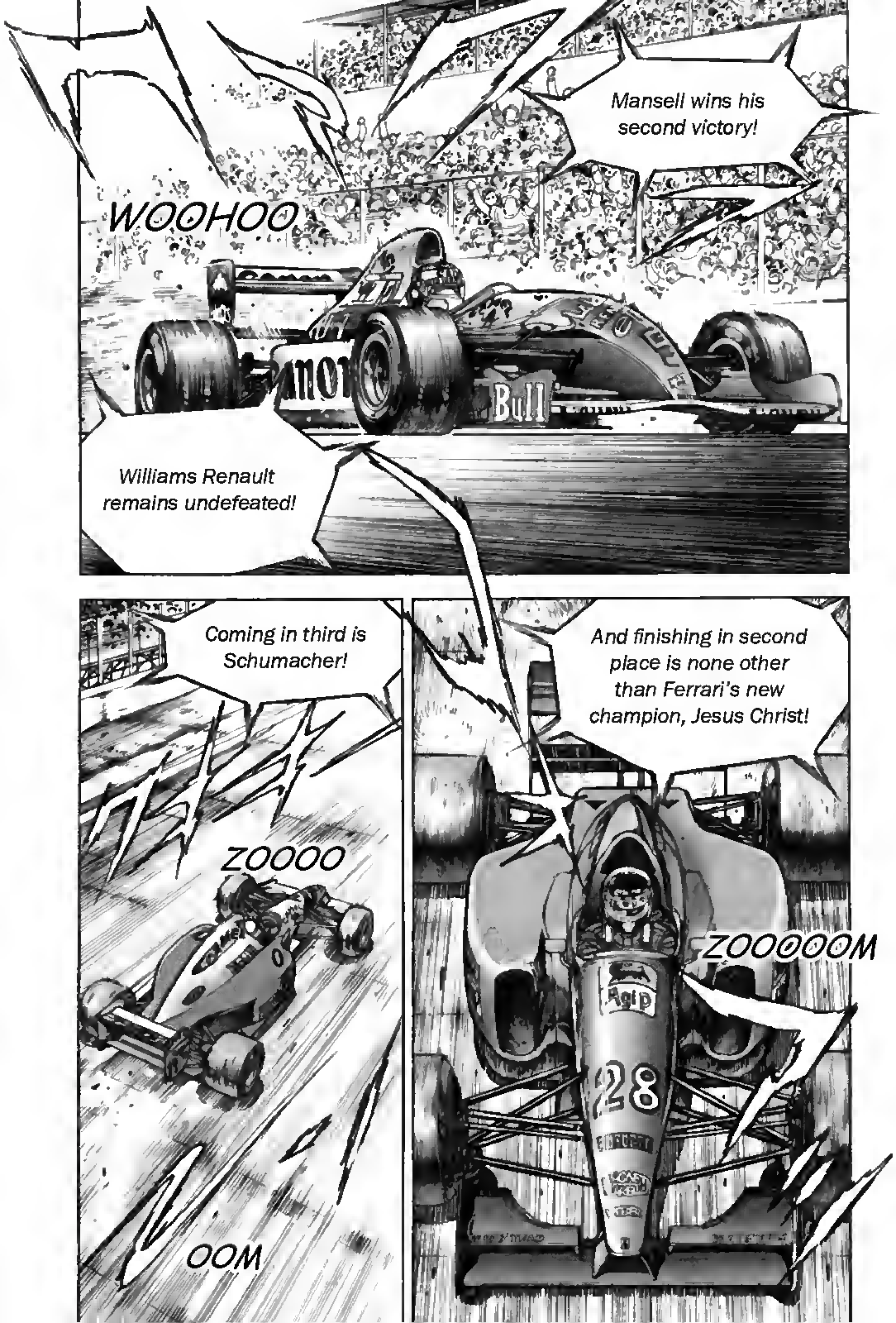

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...

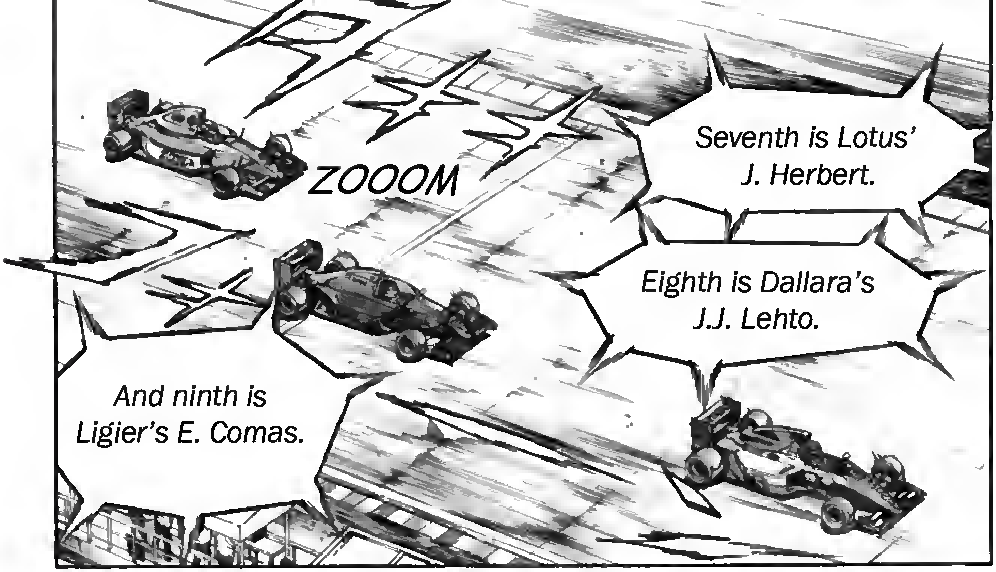
Chapter 8:
Push On





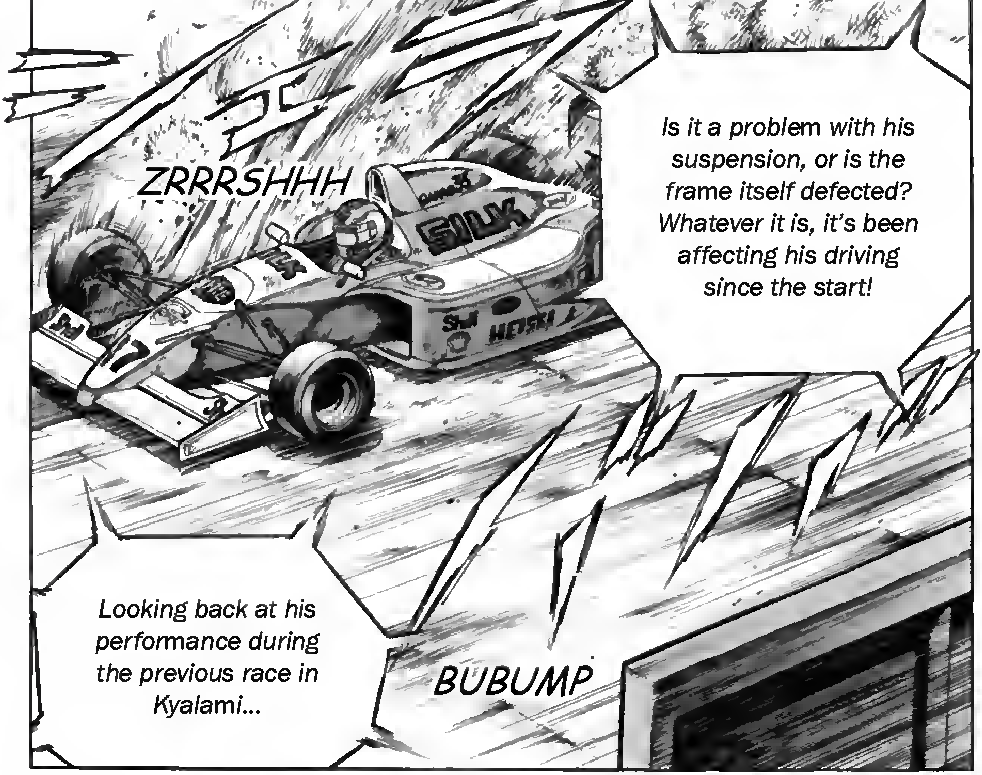
ROUND2
MEXICAN
GRAND PRIX


Mansell wins his second victory!
WOOHOO
Williams Renault remains undefeated!
Coming in third is Schumacher!
ZOOOO
OOM
And finishing in second place is none other than Ferrari's new champion, Jesus Christ!
ZOOOOOM


ZOOOM
Seventh is Lotus' J. Herbert.
Eighth is Dallara's J.J. Lehto.
And ninth is Ligier's E. Comas.

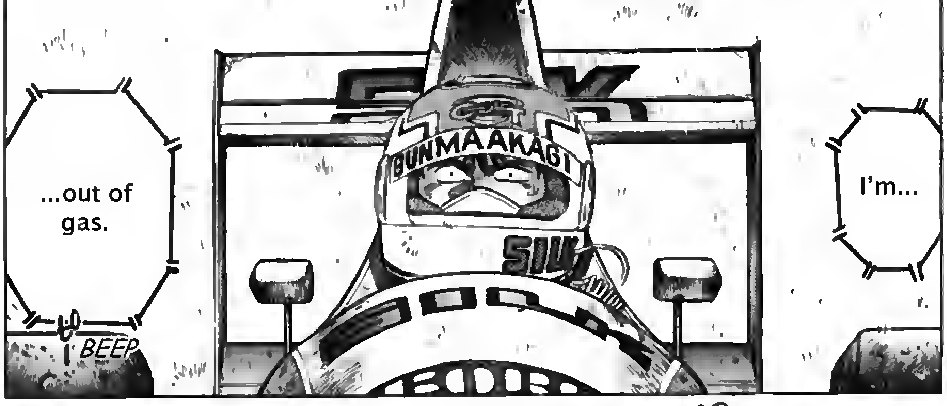
As the cars cross the checkered flag one after another, there's one car still kicking up dust!
It's GOKT SILK's Gunma Akagi!

ZZZ-VASSHH
37
Shell

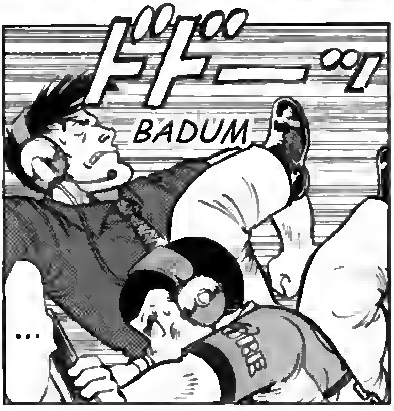

ZRRRSHHH
SILK
HEIKI
Is it a problem with his suspension, or is the frame itself defected? Whatever it is, it's been affecting his driving since the start!
Looking back at his performance during the previous race in Kyalami...
BUBUMP

Hm...!
...it looks as if there's something wrong with SILK GOKT's car!

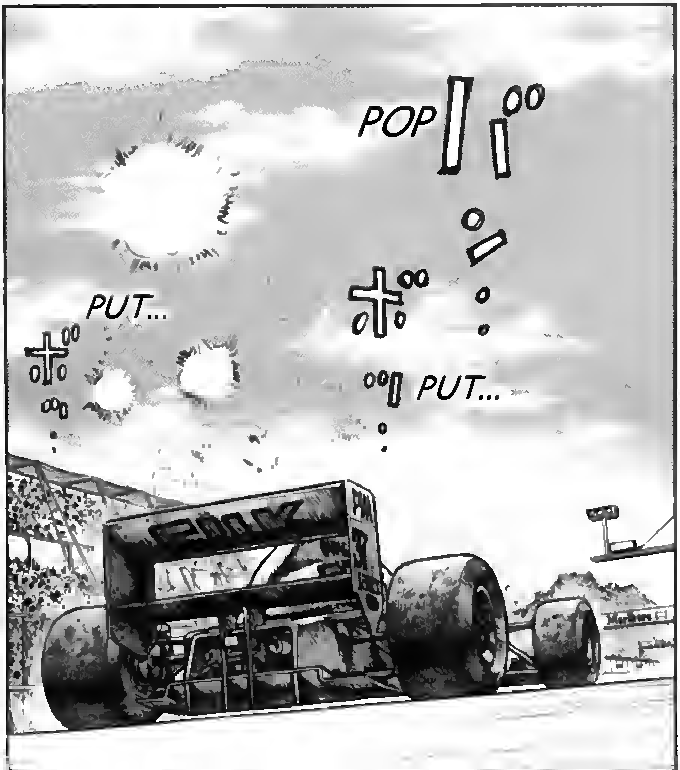
The race is over, Gunma! Get your ass over to the checkered flag, now!
Damn fool's been keeping the dolphin paint activated the whole time!
Gunma, that idiot!
Man... We don't want people noticing this.


...out of gas.
BEEP
BUNMA AKAGI
I'm...

With all that swerving, you must have covered 1.5 times the actual distance of the race!
Of course you're out of gas, moron!

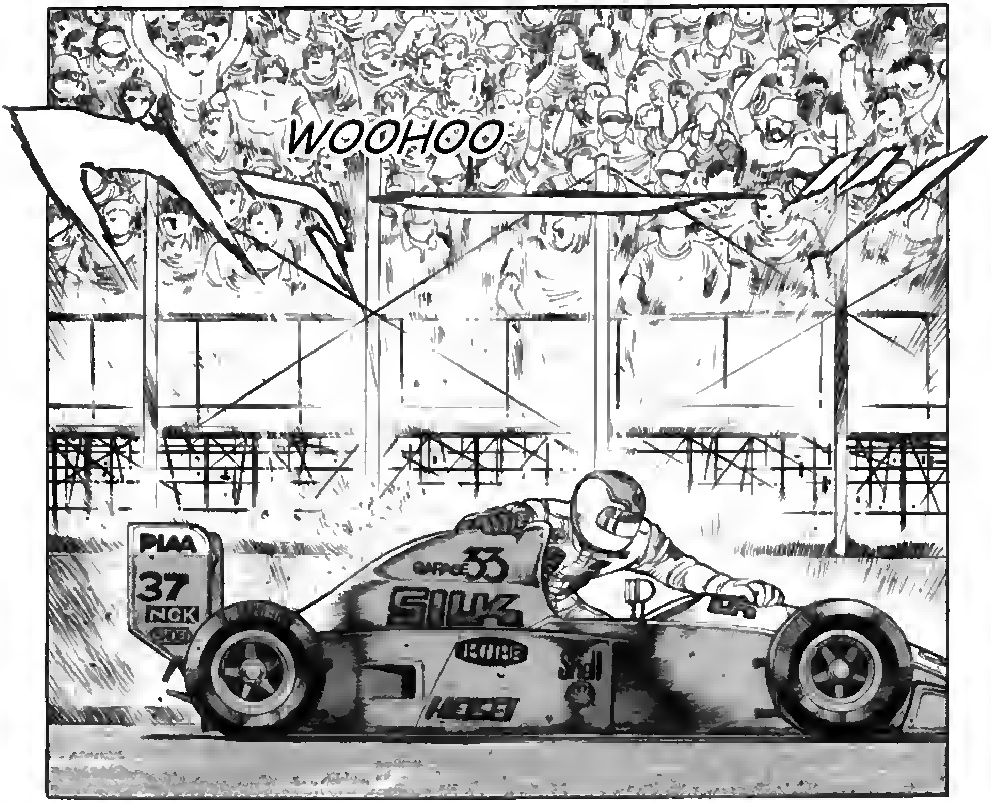

BADUM
...

It's no use. We forfeit.

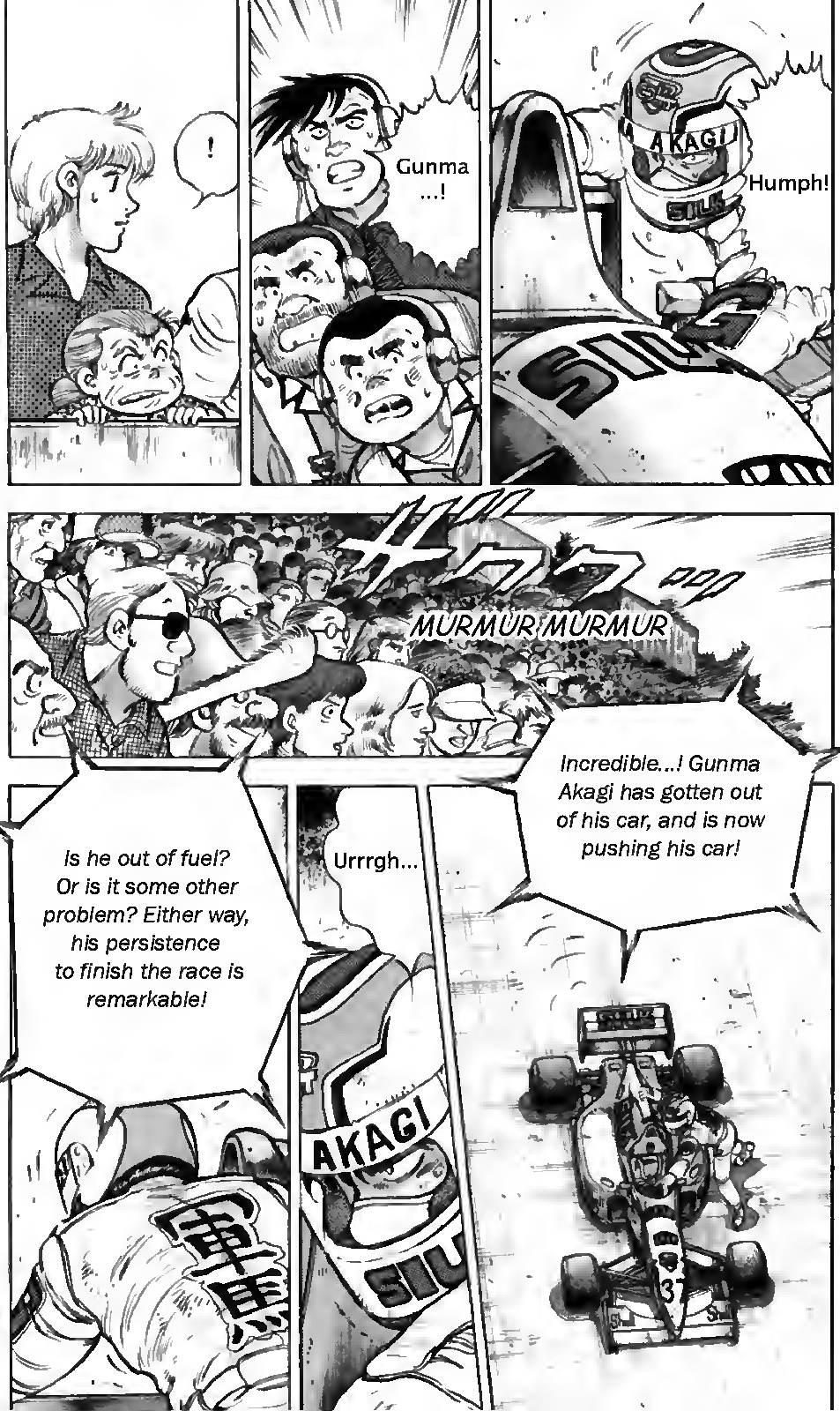

POP
PUT...
PUT...

No... I'm gonna push it!

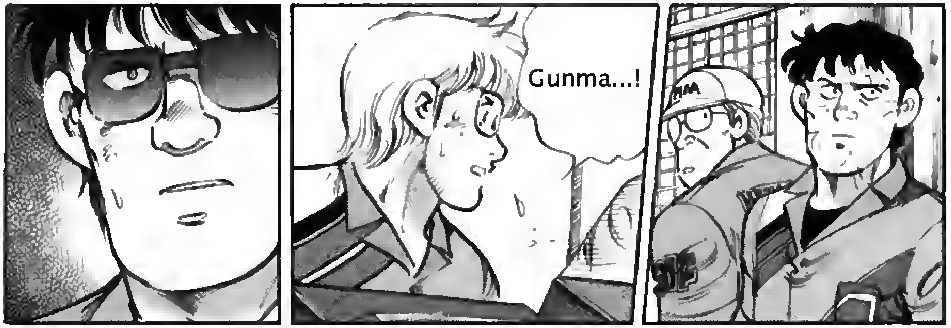
...what!?
You're gonna ...

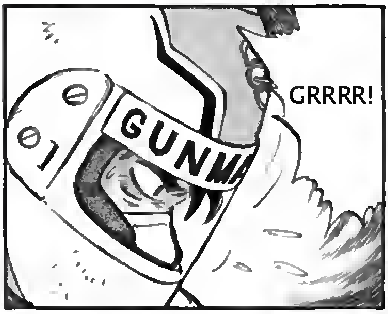

WOOHOO
PIAA
37
NGK
33
SILK
Shell

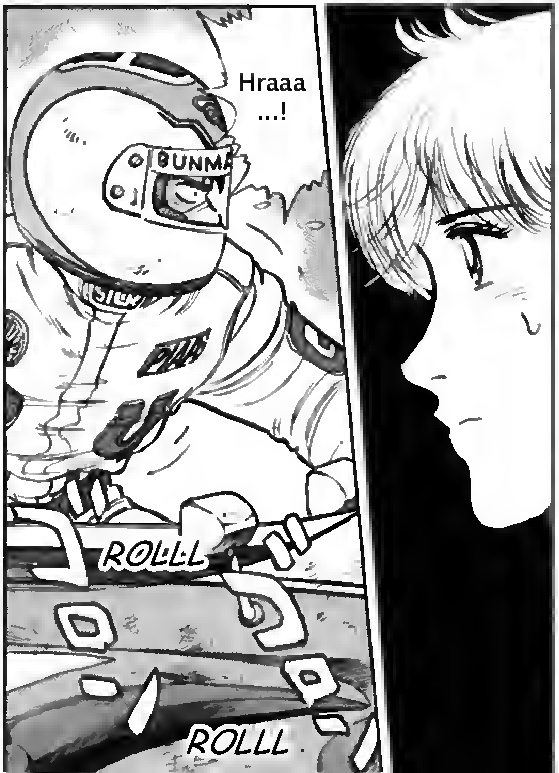
ROLLL
Shell

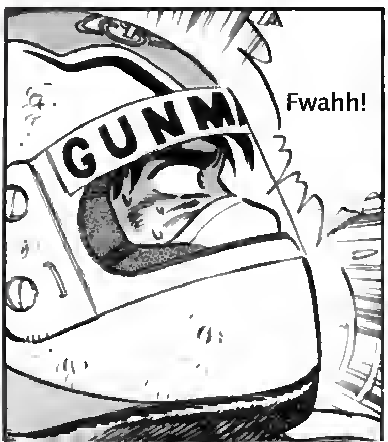

!
Gunma ...!
AKAGI
Humph!
MURMUR MURMUR
Incredible...! Gunma Akagi has gotten out of his car, and is now pushing his car!
Urrrgh...
Is he out of fuel? Or is it some other problem? Either way, his persistence to finish the race is remarkable!
AKAGI
37

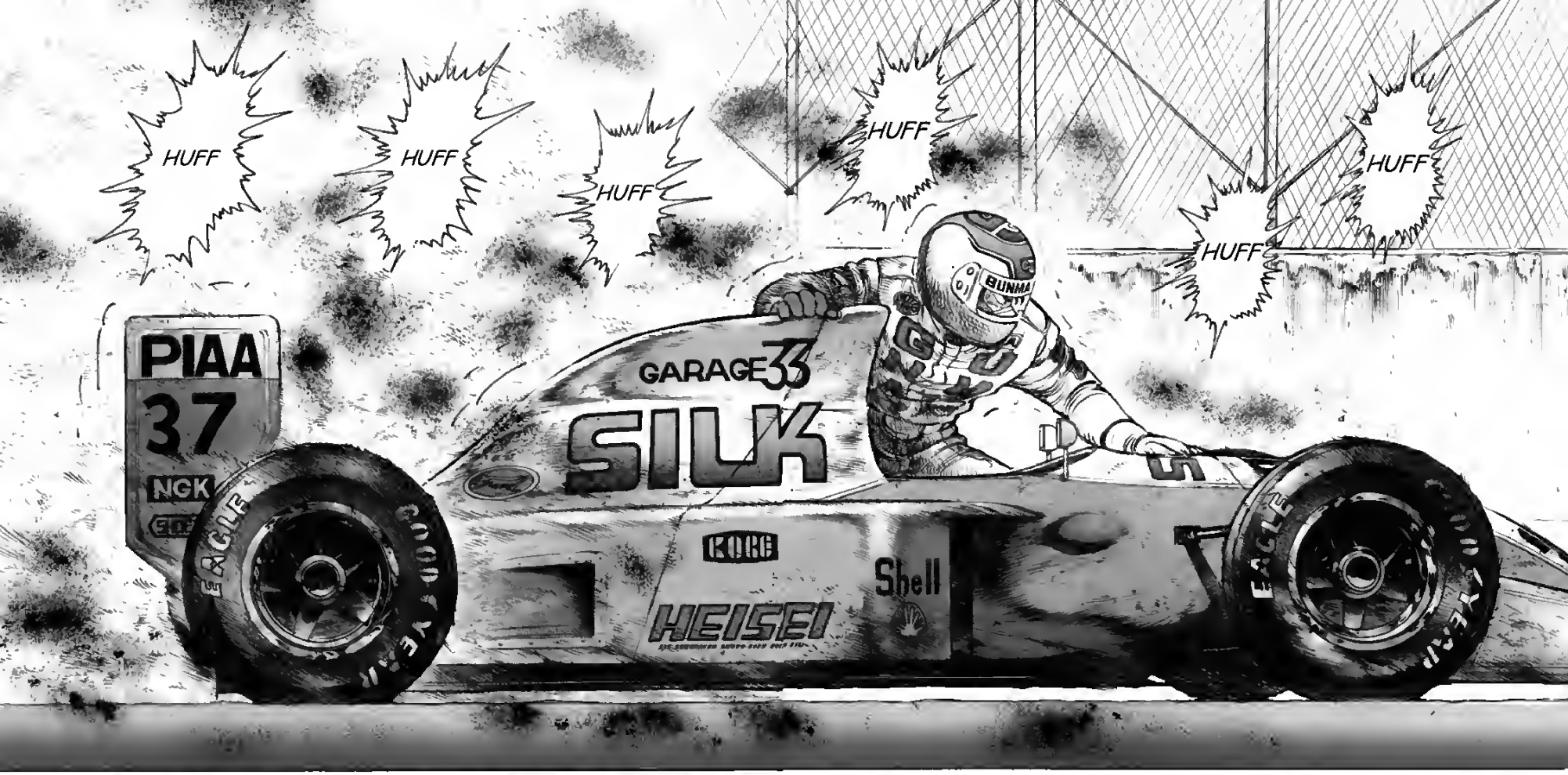
Forget going 400 km/hr, he's barely going four.
...I'd never thought I'd see.
Now that's some-thing...

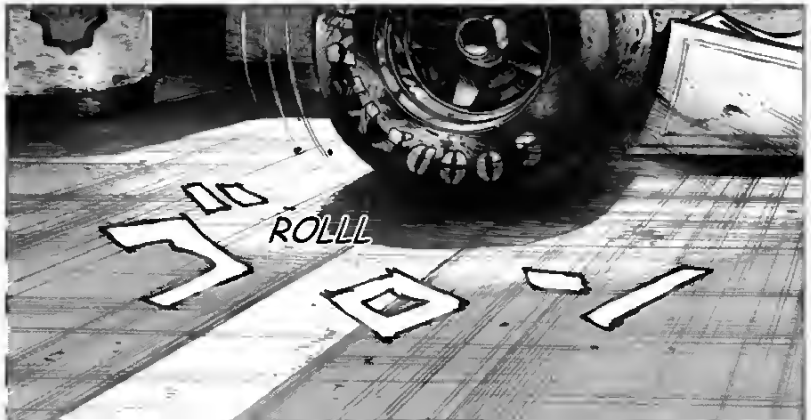

Gunma...!

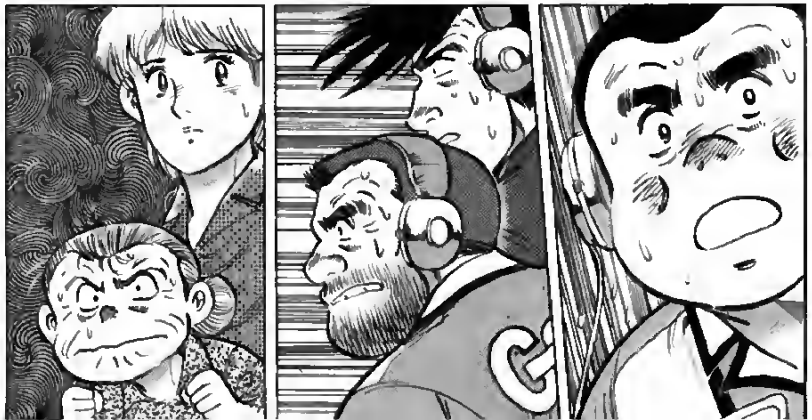

GRRRR!
GUNMA

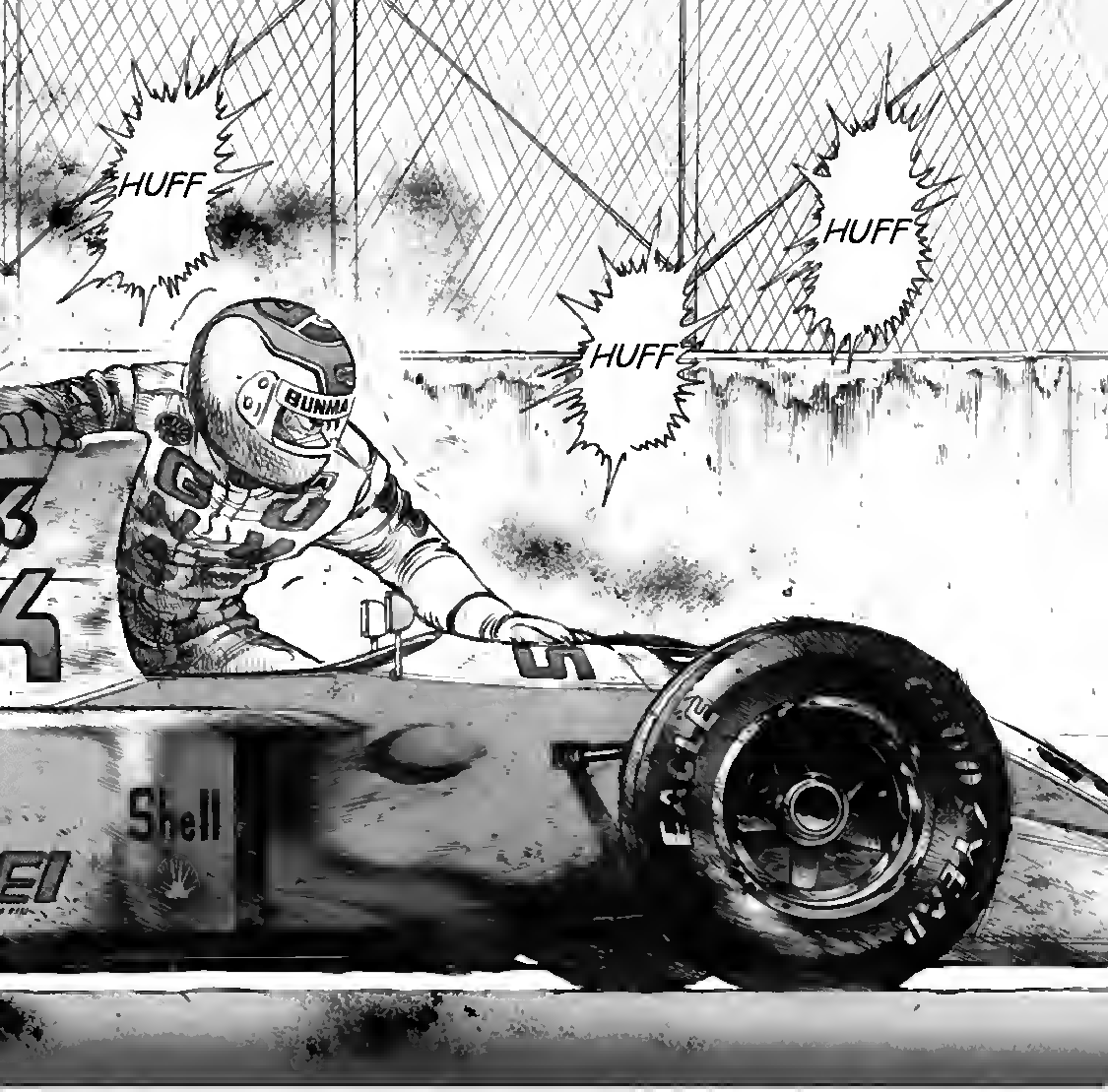

Hraaa ...!
GUNMA
ROLLL
ROLLL

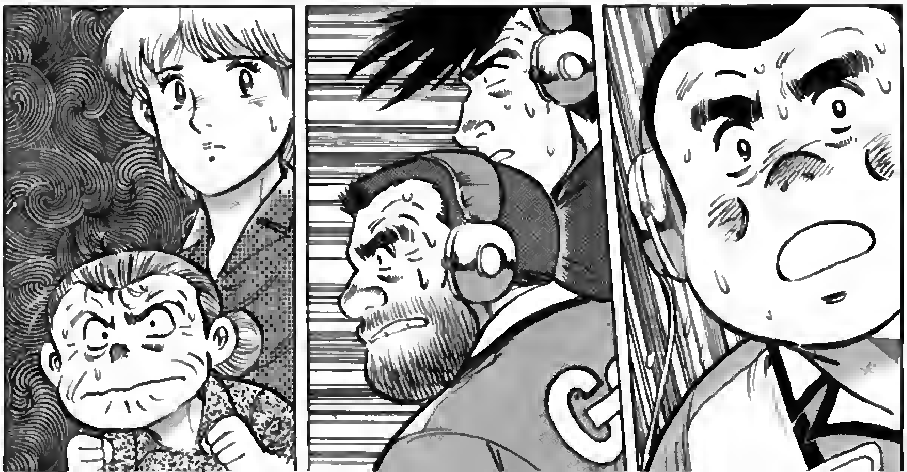

Fwahh!
GUNM

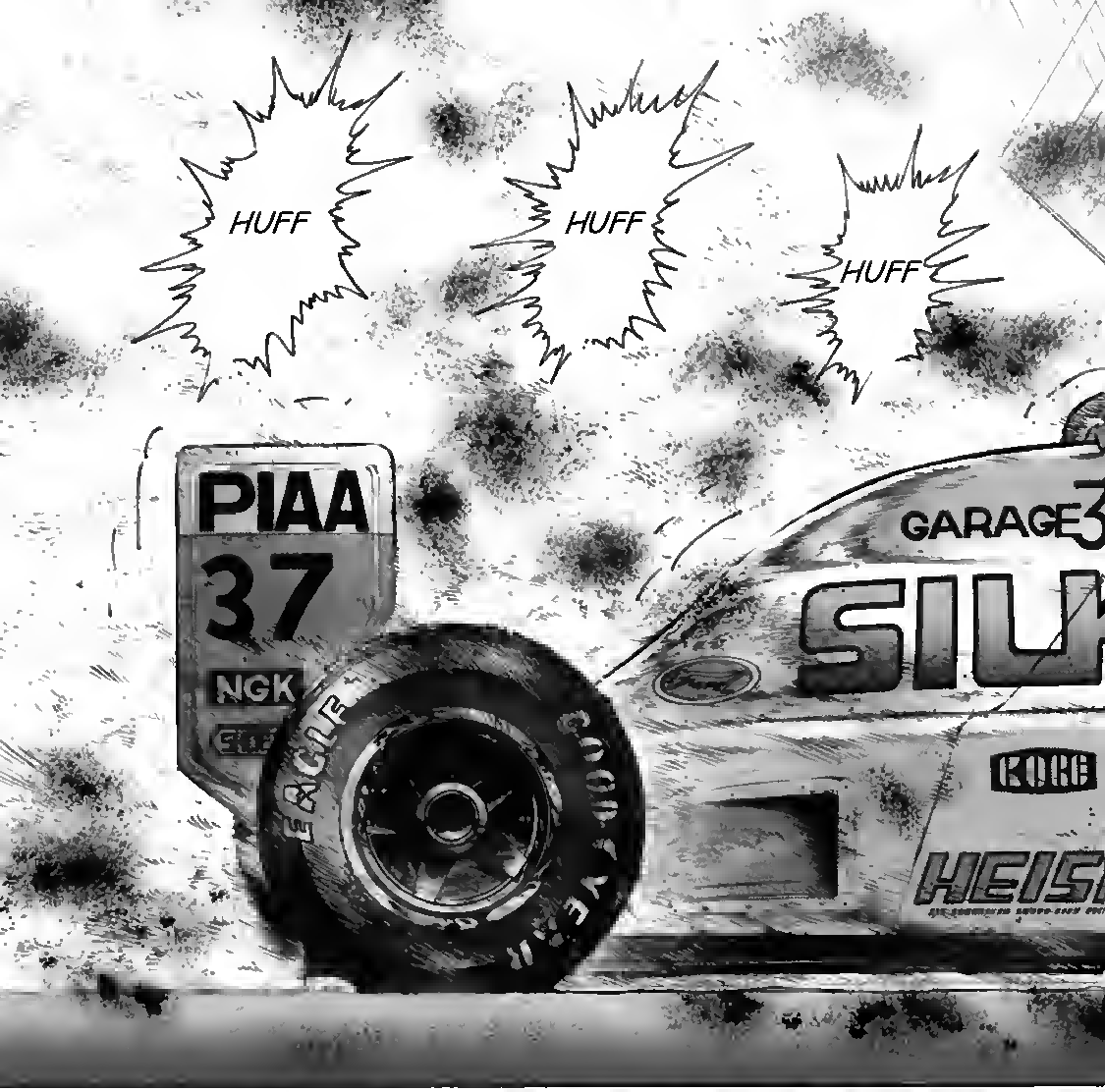

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PIAA
37
NGK
GARAGE 33
SILK
KOBE
Shell
HEISEI
EAGLE
ONE YEAR


ROLLL




HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
BUNMA
Shell
EAGLE



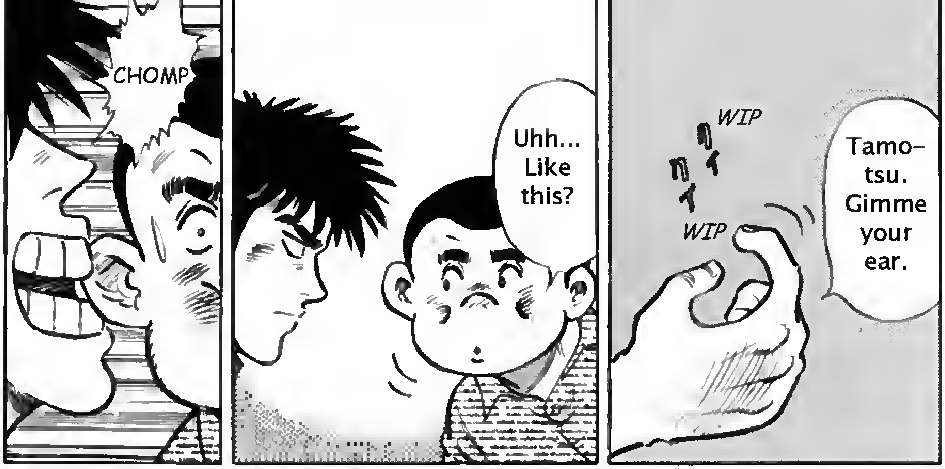

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PIAA
37
NGK
GARAGE3
KOBE

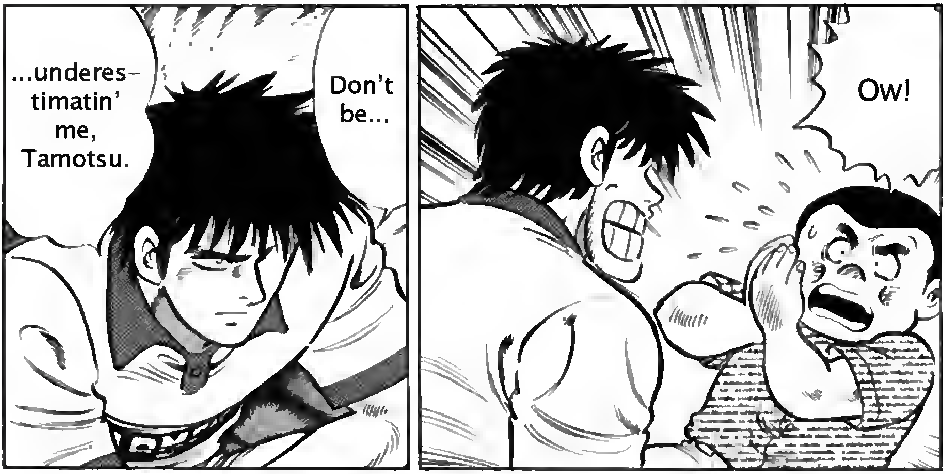
ROLL

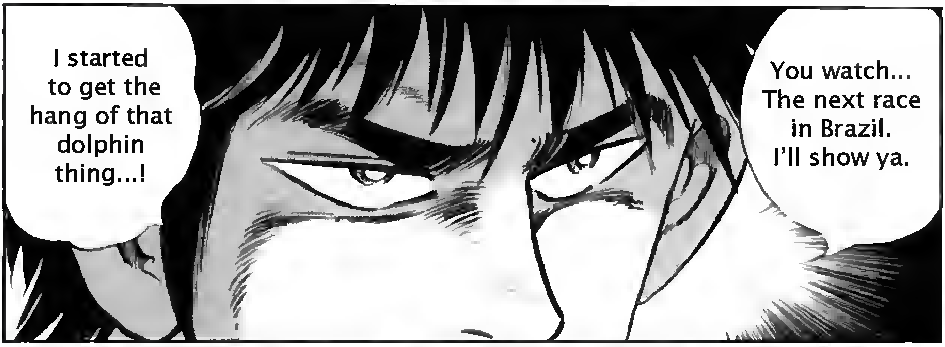
It's hot...
It's scor-chin' hot... Whee-ze...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WOOOHOOO
Damn ...
Whew ...
And there's the checkered flag! Gunma Akagi has just crossed the finish line!
Incredible tenacity! What a performance we've seen here today!
Not only did he fight to the very end, he finished in 11th place! Not a bad finish!

Phe-
www.
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
More
plea-
se!
Dude...
Will you
quit
starin' at
me like
that?
...
...
Sayin' we haven't
had a chance
recently to talk
one-on-one and
all that... I bet
Orman put you up
to this, right?
If you got
somethin'
to say, then
spit it out!

Go on and tell them!
But I ain't switchin' off that dolphin paint!
Heh! I already know what you wanna say.
CLING
CLING
...I don't agree with them.
It's true, that's probably what Orman and them wanna tell you, but...
!?
You don't gotta turn it off, Gunma...
ARMOND
And when I see you fighting right to the very end, I... I can't help but to feel admiration!
I feel bad... for making such an incomplete, half-assed device.
...
Ho-nestly!
You really are an amazing man...!
Ech... Don't get all weird on me, dude!
...
CLUNK


CHOMP
Uhh... Like this?
WIP
WIP
Tamo-tsu. Gimme your ear.


...underes-timatin' me, Tamotsu.
Don't be...
Ow!


I started to get the hang of that dolphin thing...!
You watch... The next race in Brazil. I'll show ya.

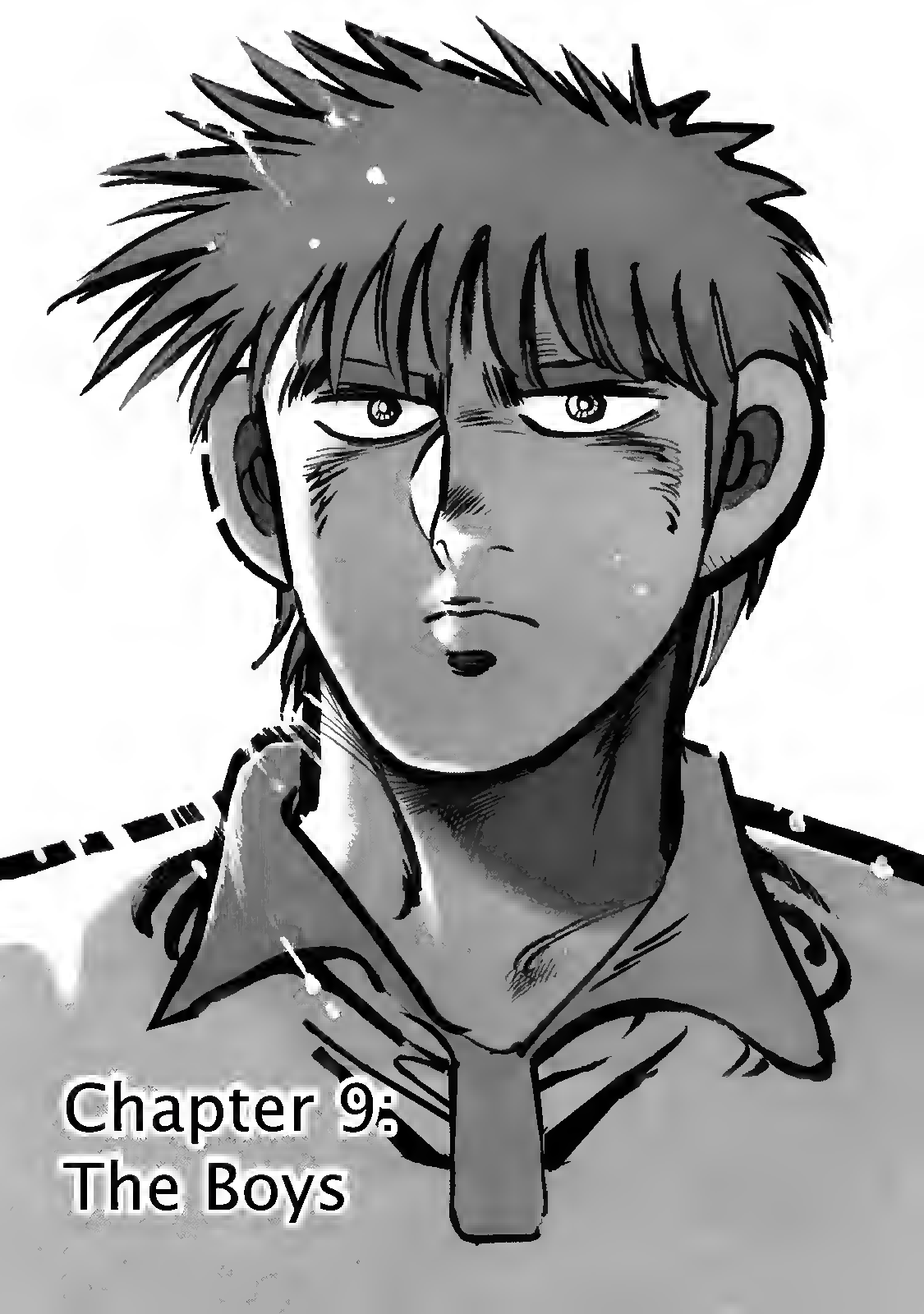
Gunma!
Gu...

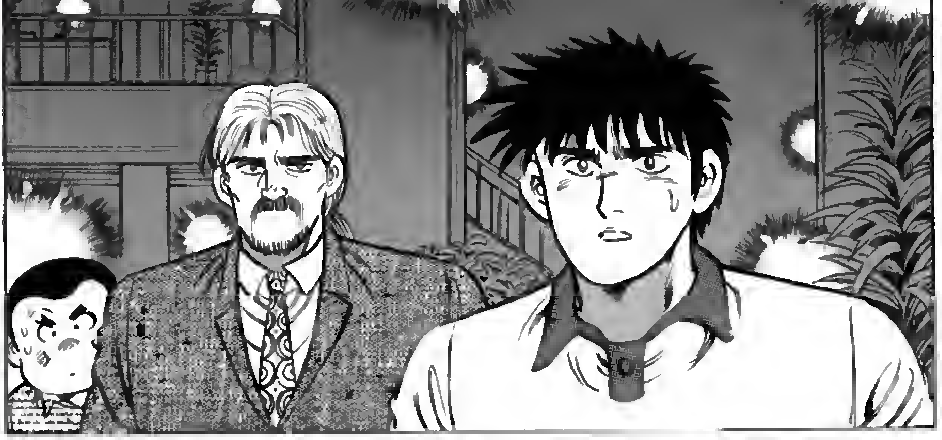
Jesus ...
Sorry to interrupt...
!
After seeing you race in Kyalami and Mexico, I'm sure FISA's Max Mosley is changing his mind.
I'm going to make my case to FISA again!
I'm sure he's starting to see that you're too dangerous to be on the circuit. Just as I predicted.
No... You can't ...
And this time, I'll make sure they stop you from racing!

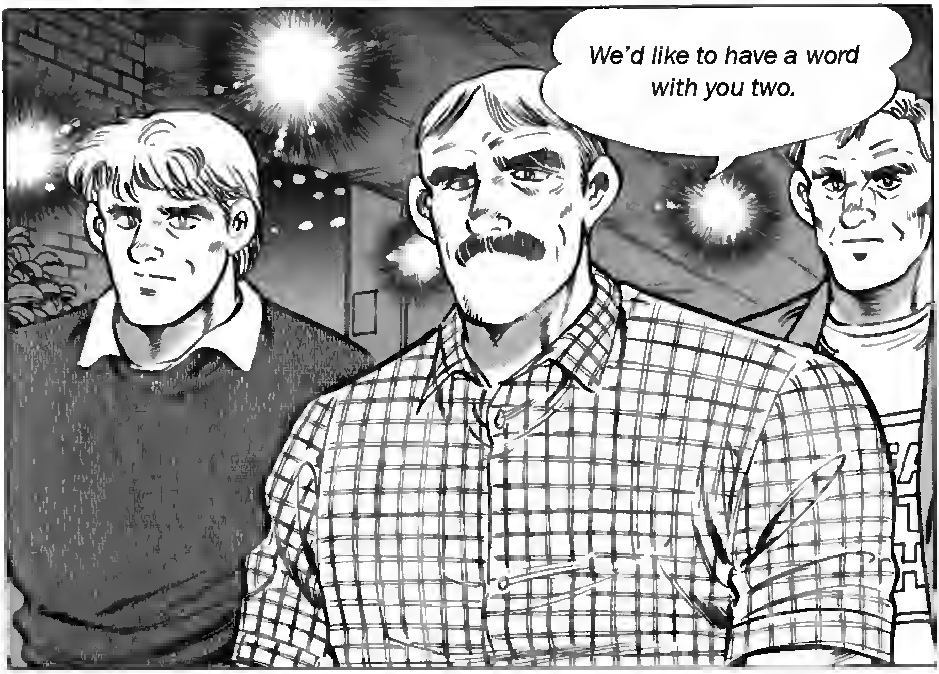
KATUNK
Hey... Jesus! Get back here, you...
Yes... This time, everyone will acknowledge that this is what's best for you, and for the racing world.
If you wanna go and die, that's your choice. But don't drag others down with you...!
Koop
WHISH
ARMOND
You bastard...
Gunma...
Gu...

Crap... Mansell, Senna, Patrese, Berger... All the top F1 guys...

Wh... What do you all want!?

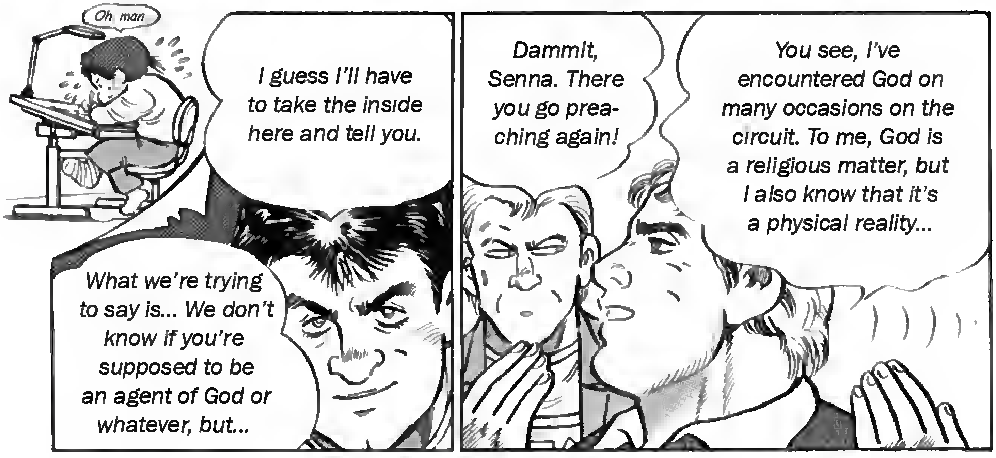

Chapter 9:
The Boys




We'd like to have a word with you two.

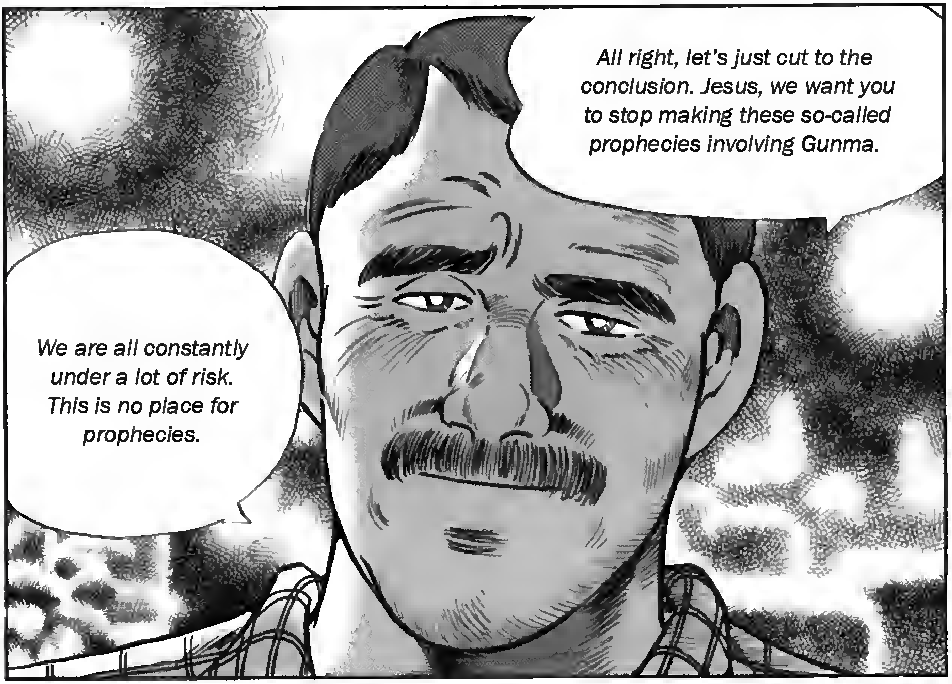
PAT
Well, I'll leave you to it.
Pay heed to the words of these champions.
See? What did I say? Even these guys are starting to feel uneasy about you.
!?
Actually, Jesus, we want to speak to you too.
We're all a bunch of hopeless lone wolves, I guess.
And this is coming out of your mouth, Mansell?
You see... F1 drivers have a lot of pride. We're sort of selfish, and we don't communicate well with each other...

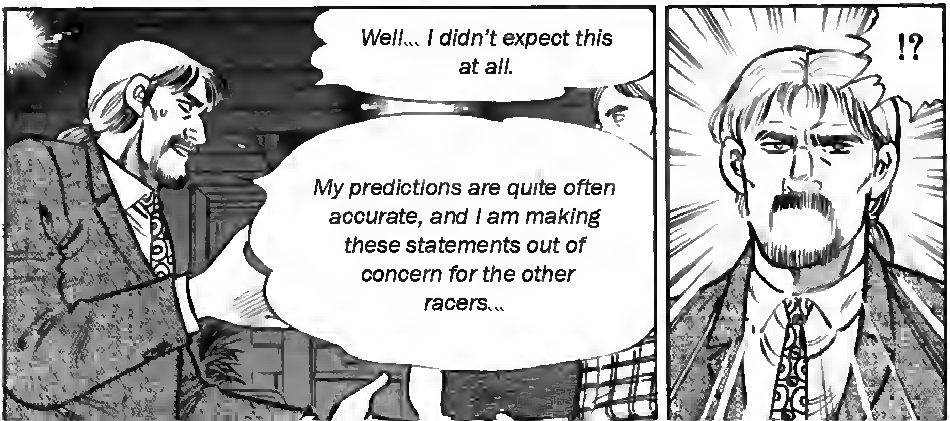
Actually, let me be the one to say it.
Come on, Mansell. Cut to the chase.
What a rare opportunity!
And now look at us, a bunch of lone wolves. Getting together and talking after the race!


Oh man
I guess I'll have to take the inside here and tell you.
What we're trying to say is... We don't know if you're supposed to be an agent of God or whatever, but...
Dammit, Senna. There you go preaching again!
You see, I've encountered God on many occasions on the circuit. To me, God is a religious matter, but I also know that it's a physical reality...

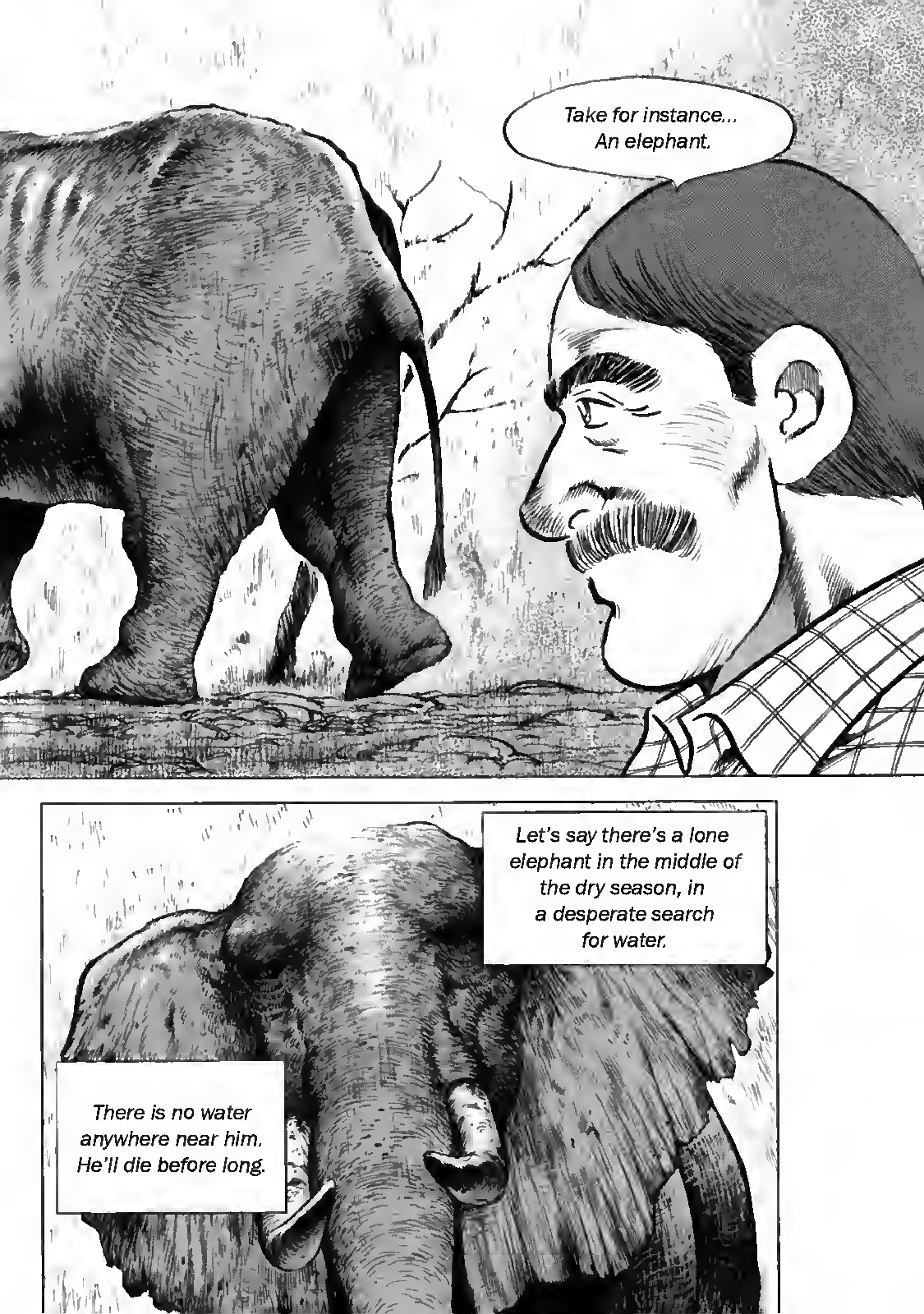
Sigh... What a tired bunch of... We're not on the circuit here...
DASH
...And he crashes.
Just cut it out!
Like I said, I communicate regularly with God...
Alesi... I think you've got a screw loose in the gearbox or something.
All this supernatural nonsense like prophecies and what have you... You see, in F1, it's considered...

...
...
HEY!
Schumacher!

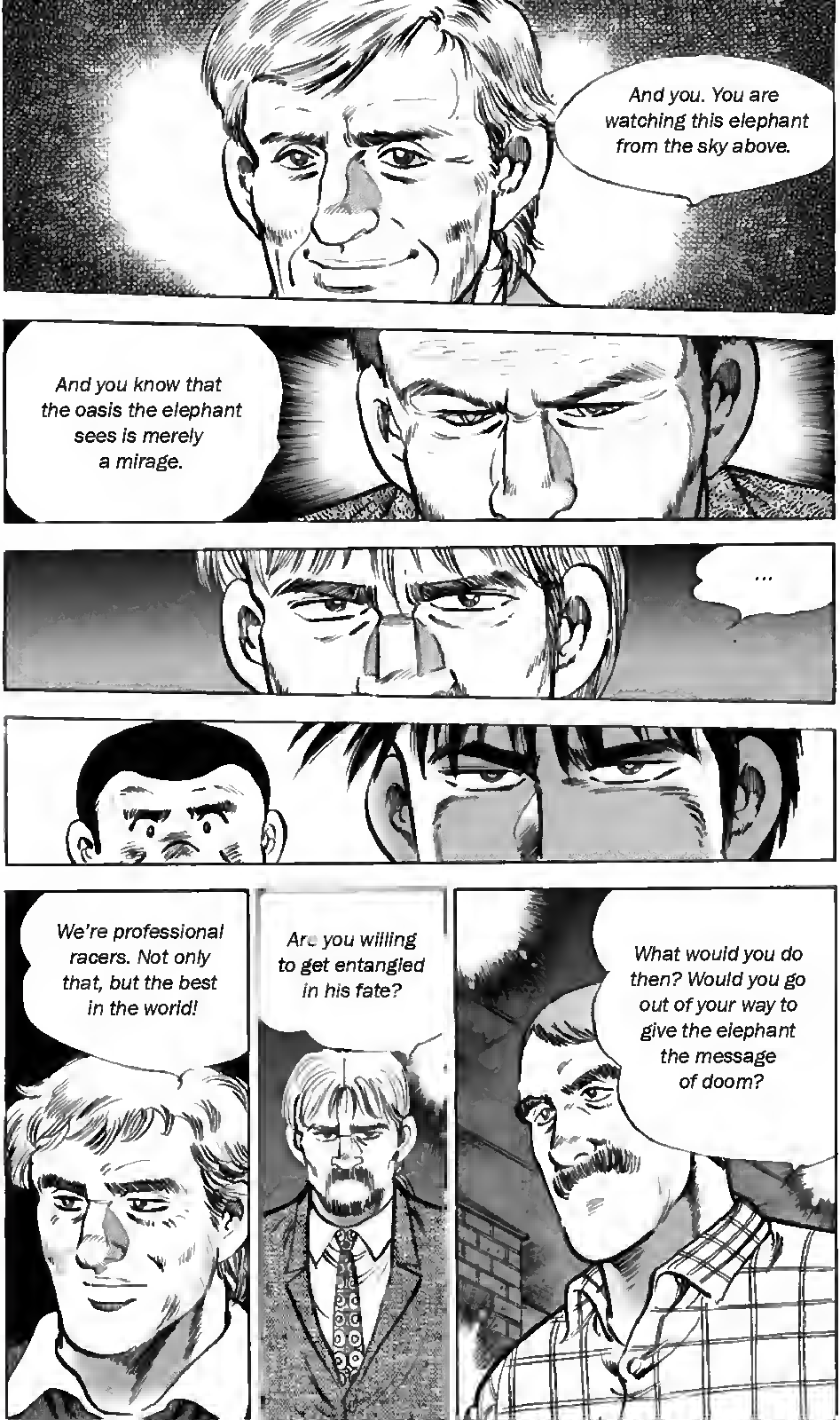

All right, let's just cut to the conclusion. Jesus, we want you to stop making these so-called prophecies involving Gunma.
We are all constantly under a lot of risk. This is no place for prophecies.


Well... I didn't expect this at all.
My predictions are quite often accurate, and I am making these statements out of concern for the other racers...
!?

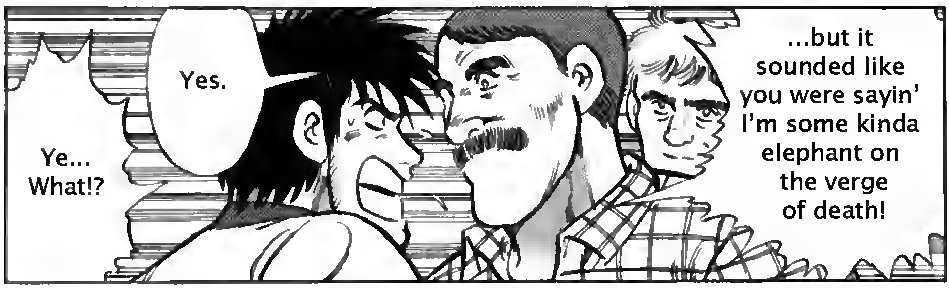
An elephant!?
Take for instance... An elephant.
Let's say there's a lone elephant in the middle of the dry season, in a desperate search for water.
There is no water anywhere near him. He'll die before long.
However, far off in the distance, he sees an oasis! He gathers what remains of his strength, and with only the will to survive to push him forward, he runs!
He runs! And keeps on running!


Take for instance... An elephant.
Let's say there's a lone elephant in the middle of the dry season, in a desperate search for water.
There is no water anywhere near him. He'll die before long.

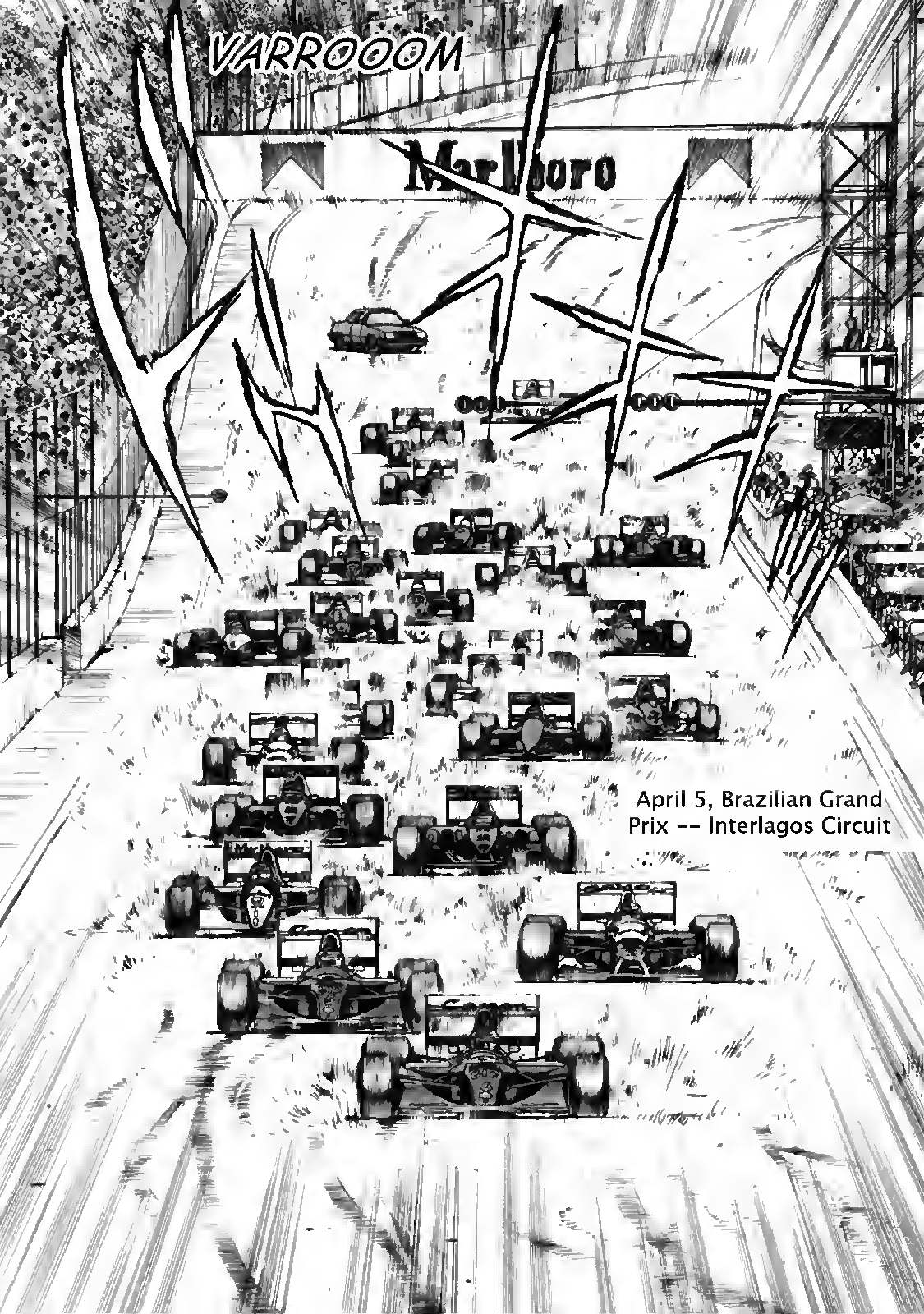
An elephant!?
He runs! And keeps on running!
However, far off in the distance, he sees an oasis! He gathers what remains of his strength, and with only the will to survive to push him forward, he runs!

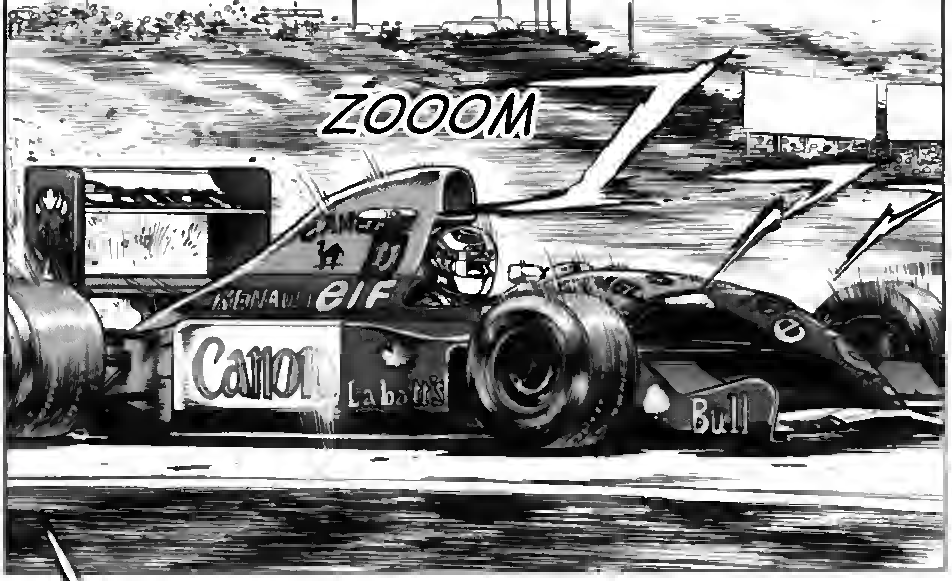

And you. You are watching this elephant from the sky above.
And you know that the oasis the elephant sees is merely a mirage.
...
We're professional racers. Not only that, but the best in the world!
Are you willing to get entangled in his fate?
What would you do then? Would you go out of your way to give the elephant the message of doom?

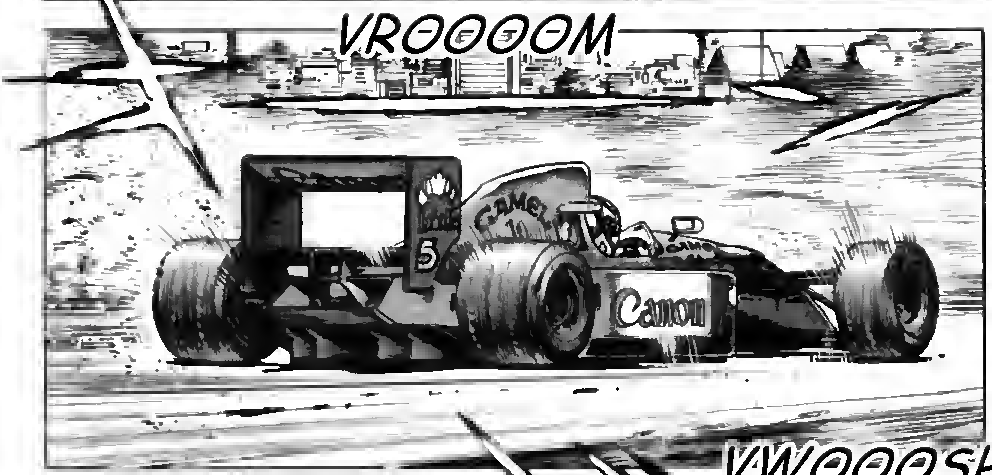
I don't know if I heard you right...
Hey... Hold on a minute! Just what the hell was that all about!?
I understand. I'll say no more.
...


Yes.
Ye... What!?
...but it sounded like you were sayin' I'm some kinda elephant on the verge of death!

...
And as for the rest of us...
...we're all just a parade of elephants.


VARROOOM
Marlboro
April 5, Brazilian Grand Prix -- Interlagos Circuit

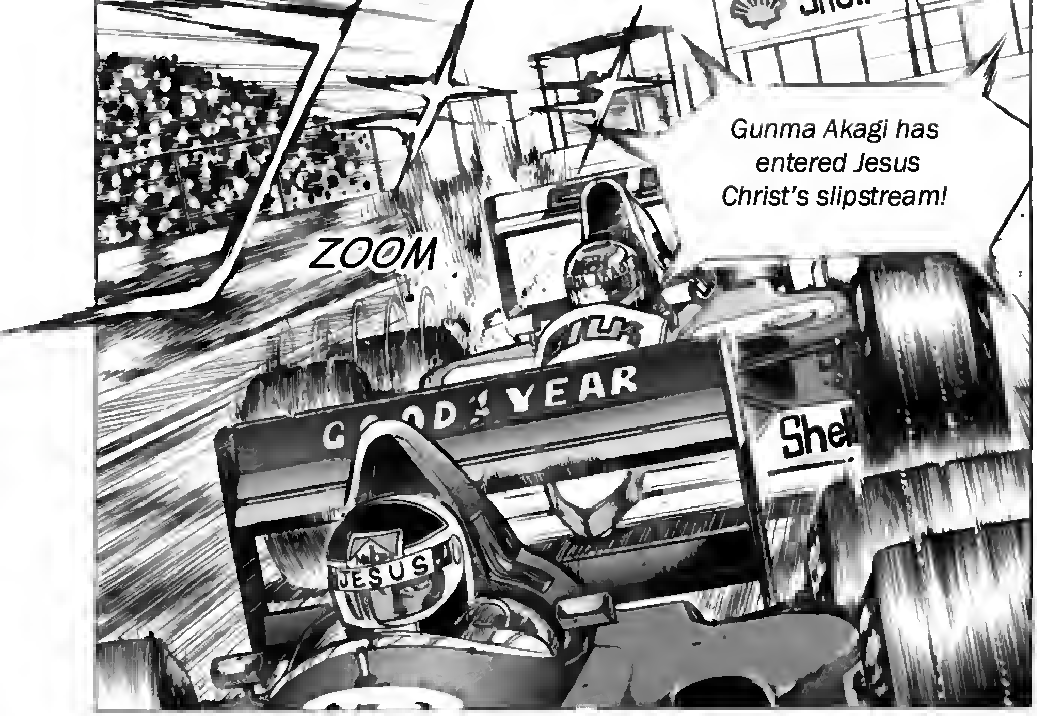

ZOOOM
elf
Canon
Bull

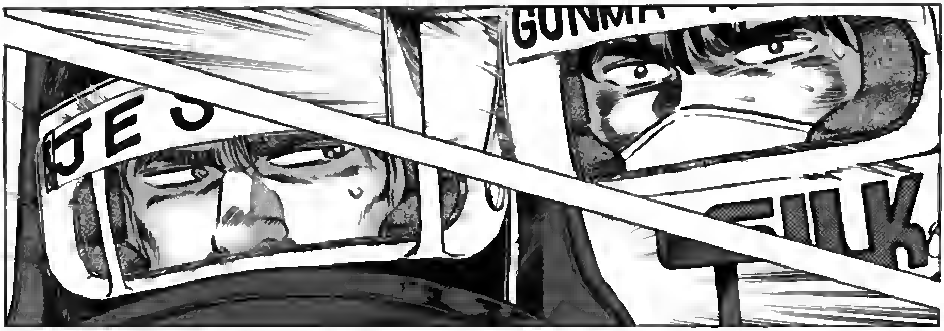

VROOOOM
5
Canon

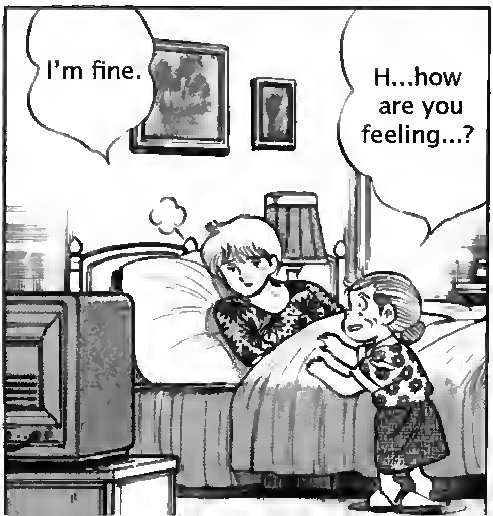
VWOOOSH
Marlboro
Shell
1

ZWOOOM
37
SWOOSH

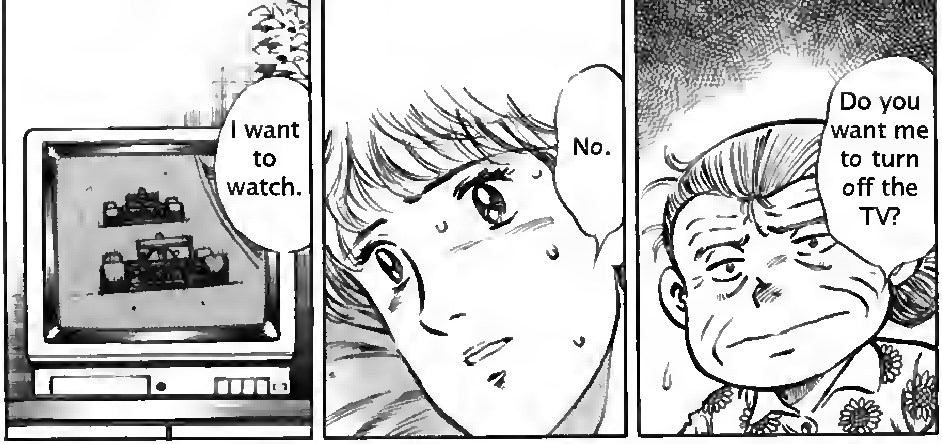
He's gradually getting the hang of it.
That kid's a freakin' monster...
Gunma!
...and is managing to stay on course!
He's racing with that dolphin paint activated...
GUNMA
On the verge of death, pursuing a mirage...
An elephant on the verge of death...
He just might...
He hasn't reached top speed yet, but...
...be getting somewhere with this!

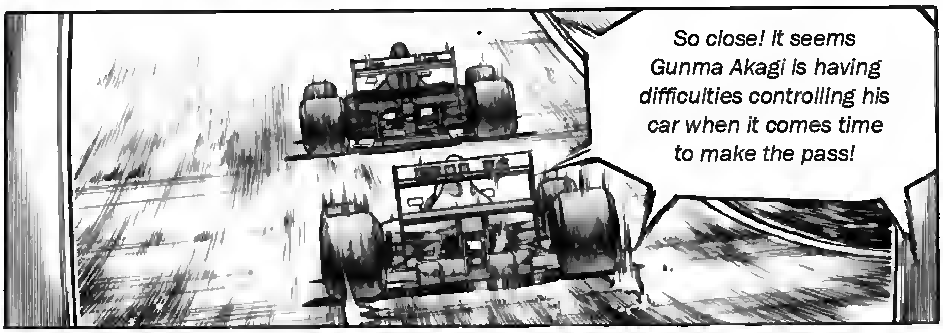

ZOOM
Gunma Akagi has entered Jesus Christ's slipstream!
GOODYEAR
JESUS

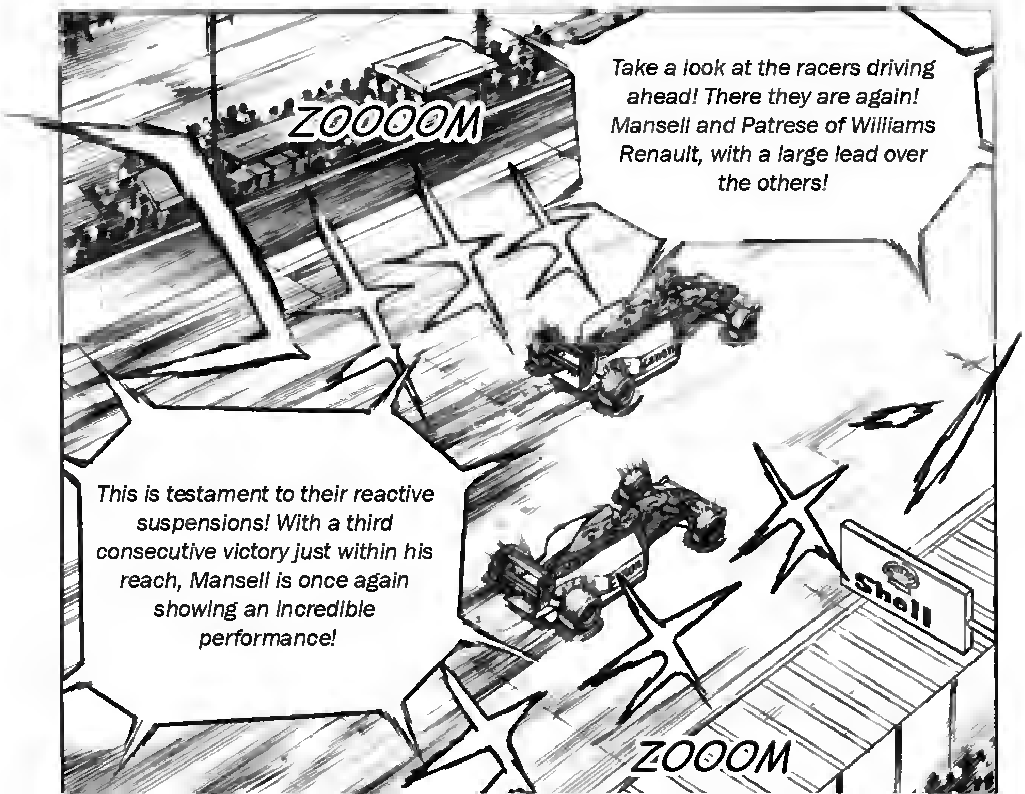

JESUS


I'm fine.
H...how are you feeling...?

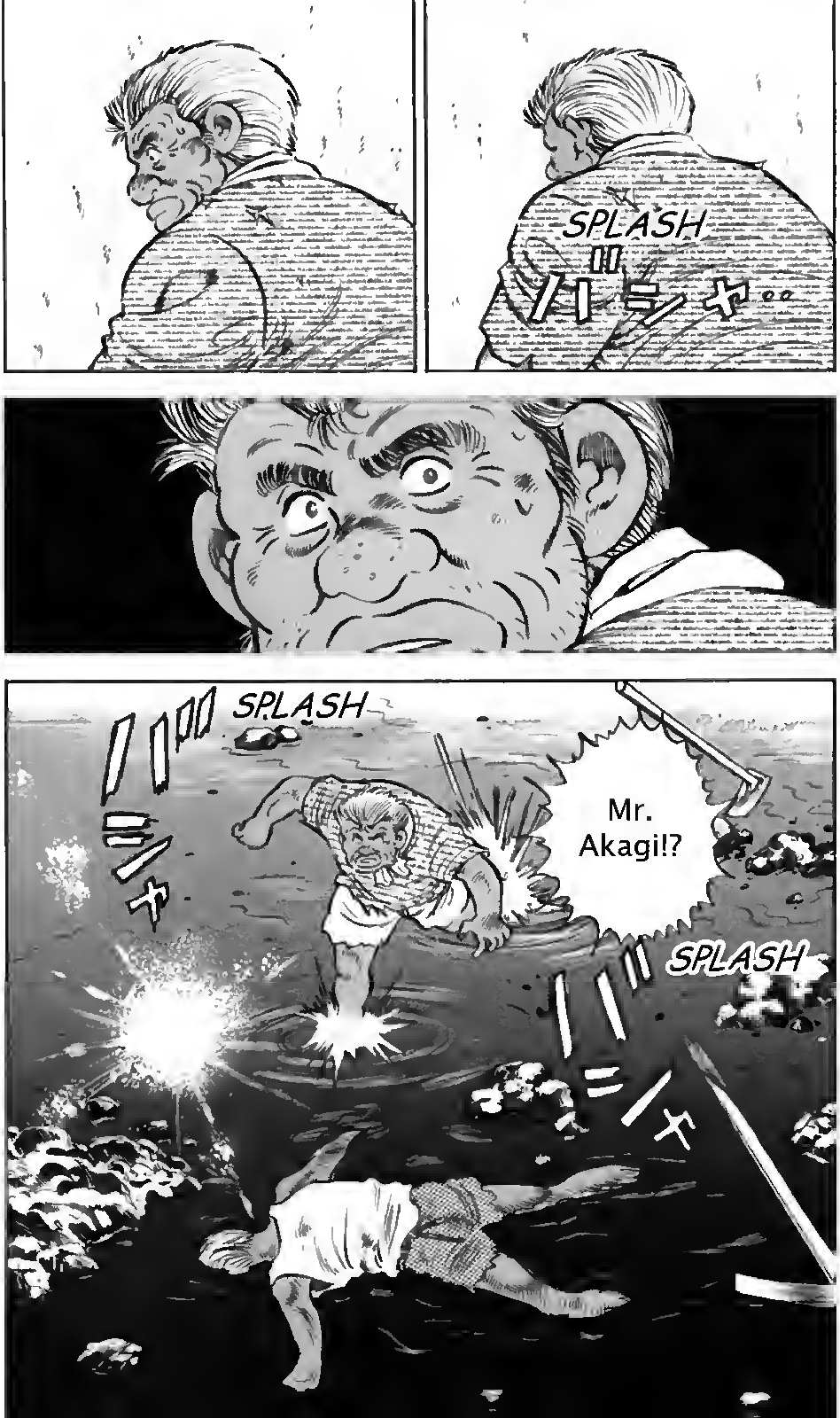
A battle for seventh place! Will he make the pass!?


I want to watch.
No.
Do you want me to turn off the TV?


So close! It seems Gunma Akagi is having difficulties controlling his car when it comes time to make the pass!

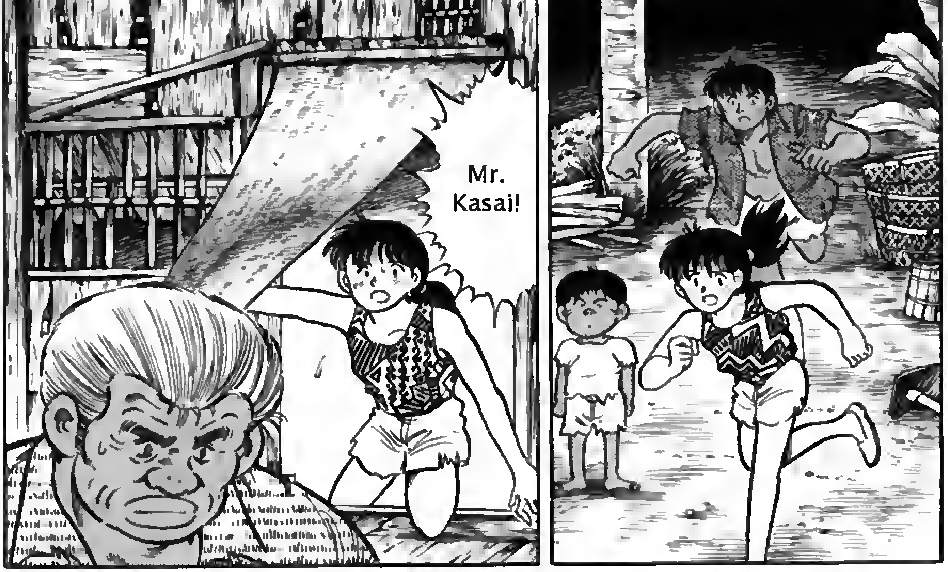

ZOOOOM
Take a look at the racers driving ahead! There they are again! Mansell and Patrese of Williams Renault, with a large lead over the others!
This is testament to their reactive suspensions! With a third consecutive victory just within his reach, Mansell is once again showing an incredible performance!
Shell
ZOOOM

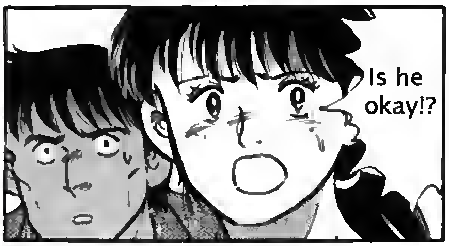
GUNMA
...which emerges victorious. Your reactive suspension, or our dolphin paint!
Just watch! In a matter of time, you'll see...
Pursuing a mirage...
An elephant on the verge of death...
We're a parade of elep-hants...
And as for the rest of us...
FLASH


SPLASH
ハシャ…
SPLASH
ハシャ
Mr. Akagi!?
SPLASH
ハシャ

Chapter 10: The Dream

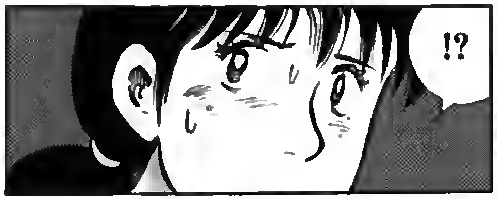
SNNNOORRRE
SNNNOORRREE


Mr. Kasai!


Is he okay!?

Yuri...

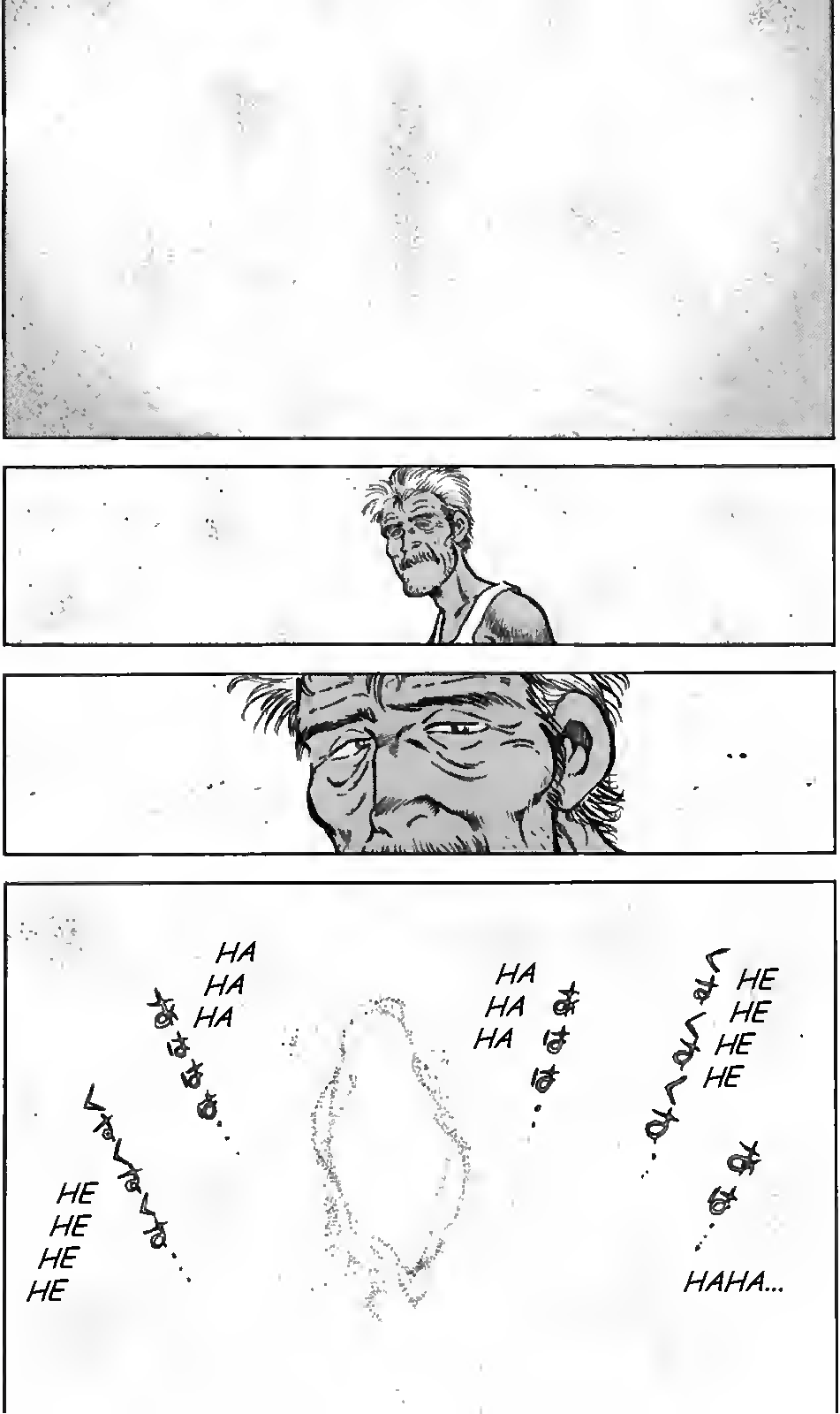
Well... You see...

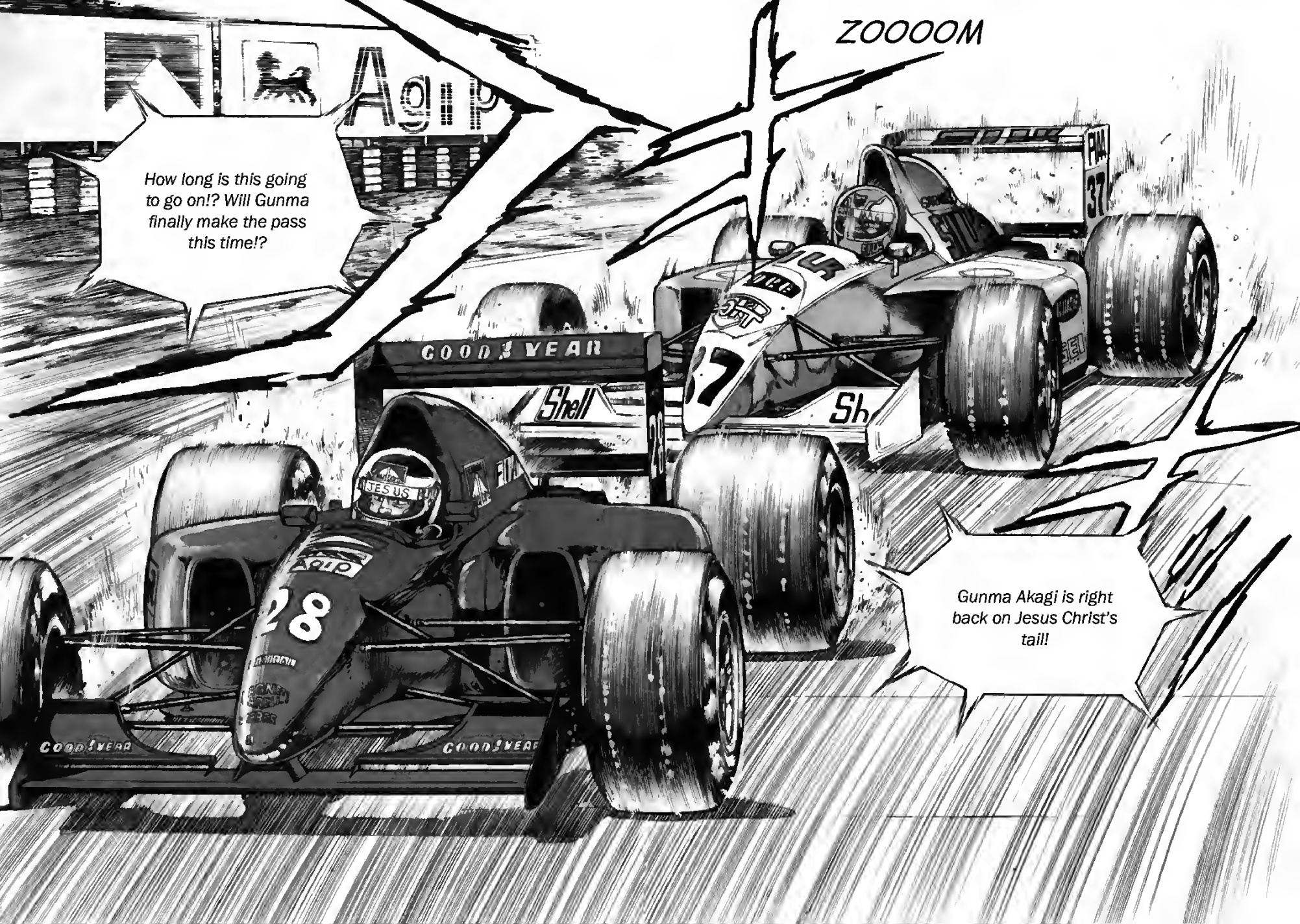

!?

SNORE
SNORE

Let's take him to a hospital!
I don't know. The heat must have got to him. He's just been snoring like this.

But... That's ...
He said to never take him to a major hospital with modern equipment, or to meddle with prolonging his life.
Mr. Akagi's told me...
...that if he should ever collapse, to not make a scene over it.
SNORE
おお.
Take a look at him. He seems so at peace, snoring without a care in the world.
GRRRKAKKRR
SNOOORRRE
...
SNNOOORE
Who are we to wake him?
GRAKK
After working all day to his heart's content, then returning to his place of sleep... Look at this hard-working man, without a regret in the world, resting so peacefully...
SNORE

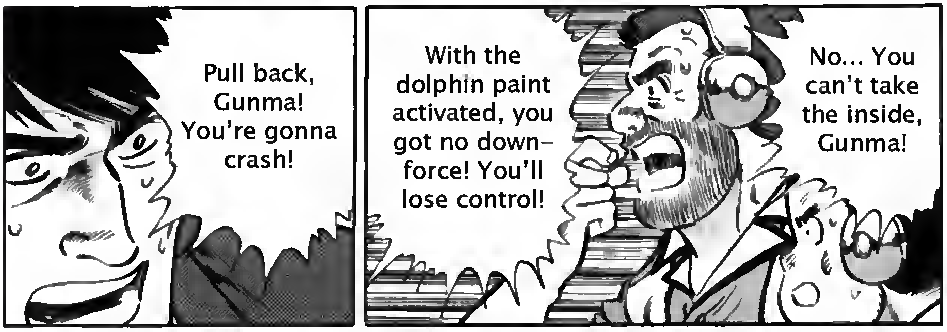

HA
HA
HA
HE
HE
HE
HE
HA
HA
HA
HE
HE
HE
HE
HAHA...

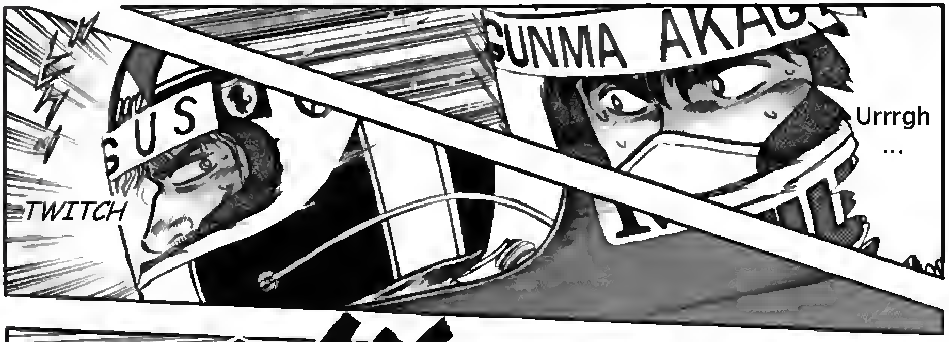

ZOOOOM
How long is this going to go on!? Will Gunma finally make the pass this time!?
Agip
GOODYEAR
Shell
28
37
Gunma Akagi is right back on Jesus Christ's tail!

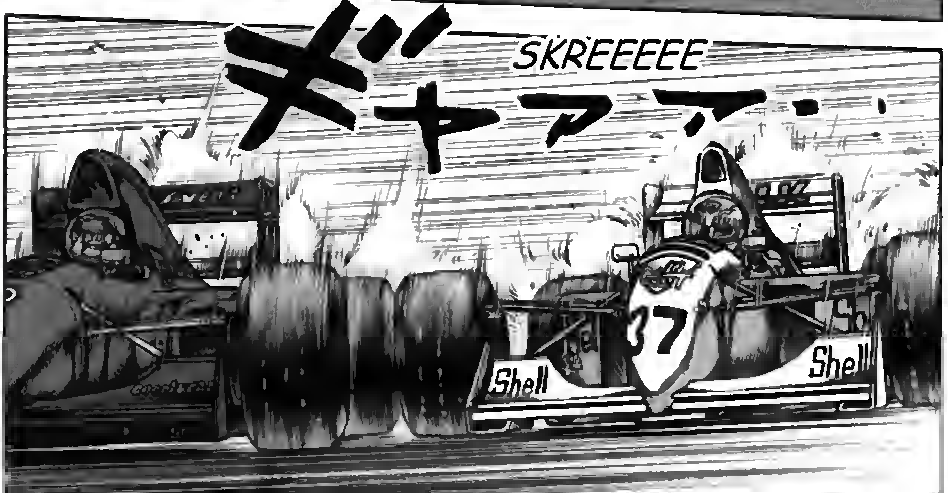
ZOOOOM
37
7
Sh
Gunma Akagi is right back on Jesus Christ's tail!

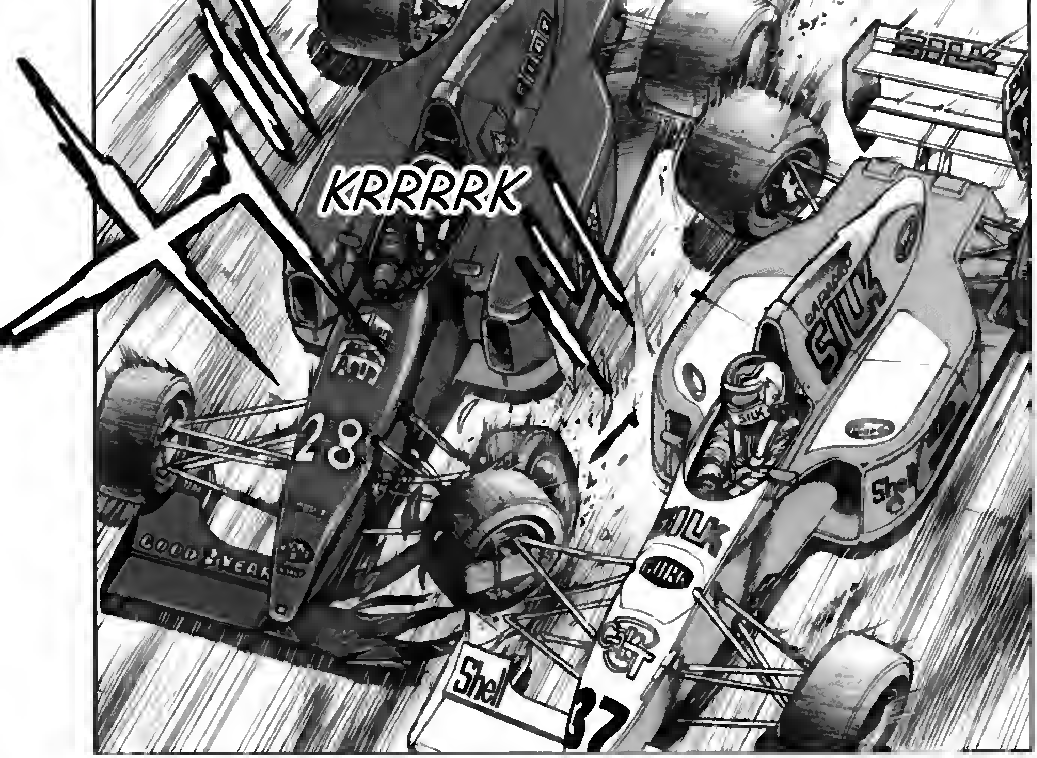
Agip
How long is this going to go on!? Will Gunma finally make the pass this time!?
GOODYEAR
Shell
JESUS
Agip
28
GOODYEAR
GOODYEAR

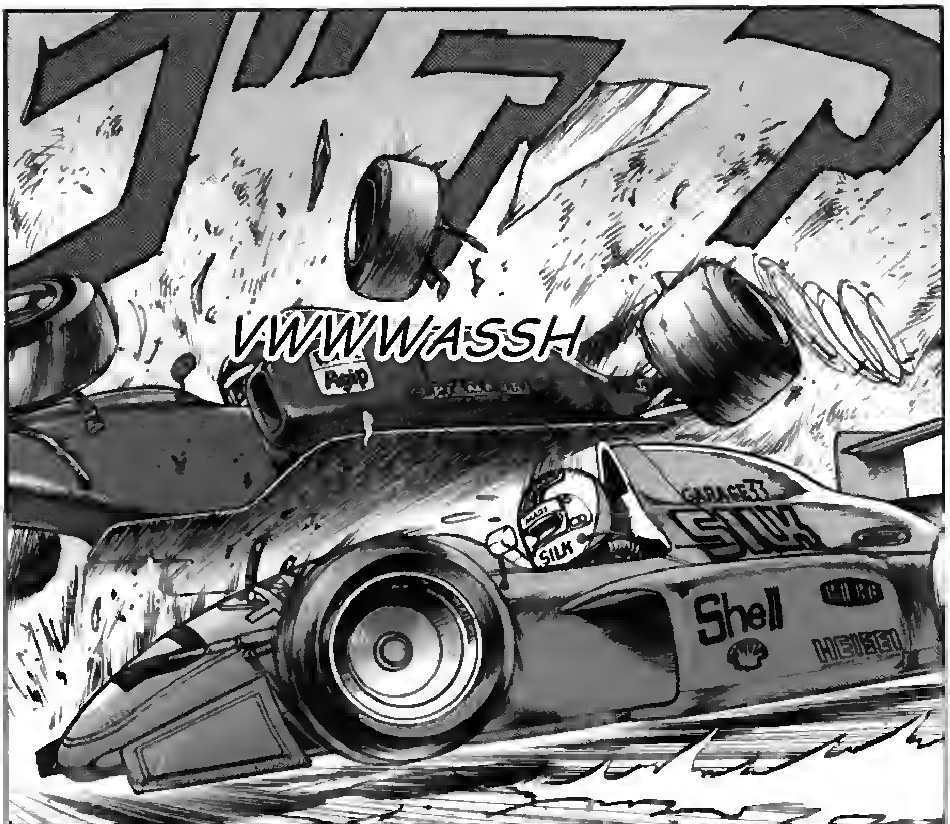
Will he take the inside!?


Pull back, Gunma! You're gonna crash!
With the dolphin paint activated, you got no down-force! You'll lose control!
No... You can't take the inside, Gunma!


GUNMA AKAGI
TWITCH
Urrrgh ...


SKREEEEE
ギャアアー
Shell
Shell
37

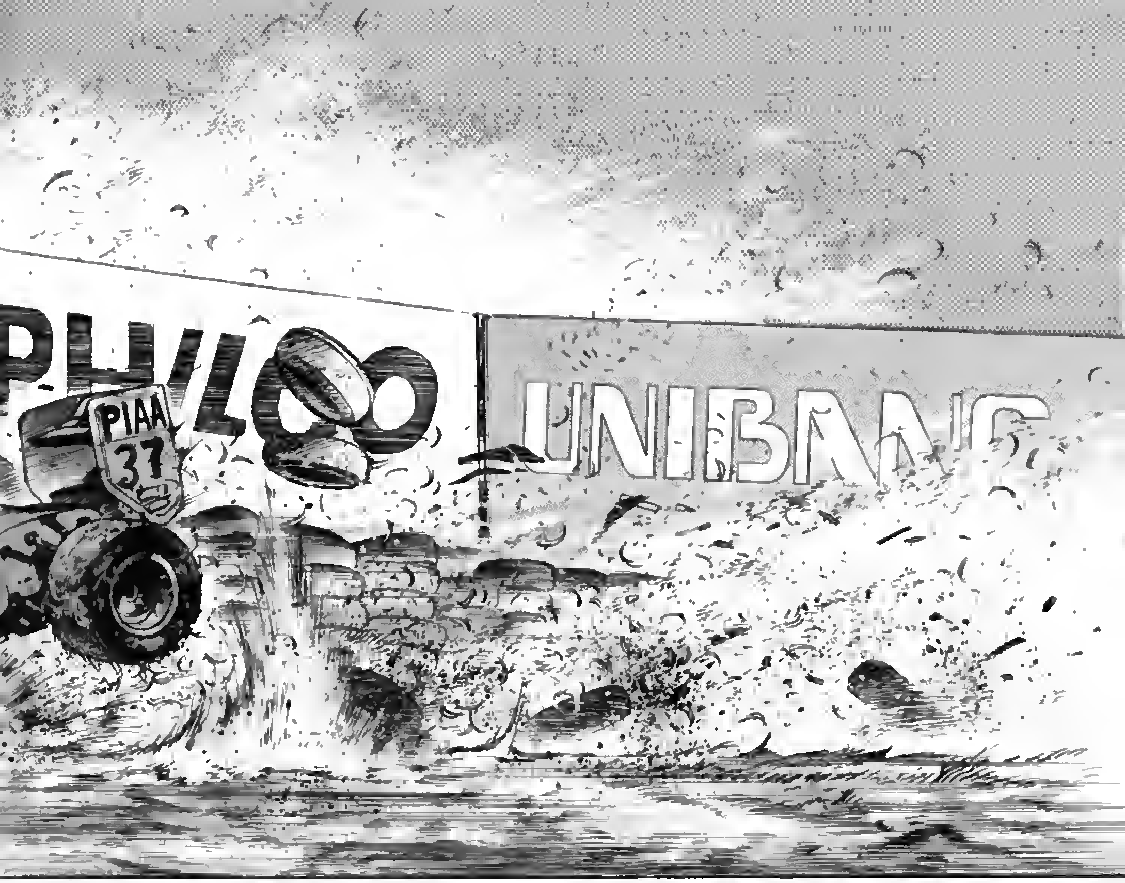

KRRRK
28
GOODYEAR
SILK
Shell
37


VWWWASSH
SILK
Shell
HEINEKEN

PHILOO
UNIBANC
PIAA
37
GARAGE 37
SILK
Shell

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
As Gunma Akagi went to take the inside, he scraped against Jesus!
This put them both out of the course!

AKAGI
No! Oh no no no!
G...Gunma!


PIAA
37
UNIBANC

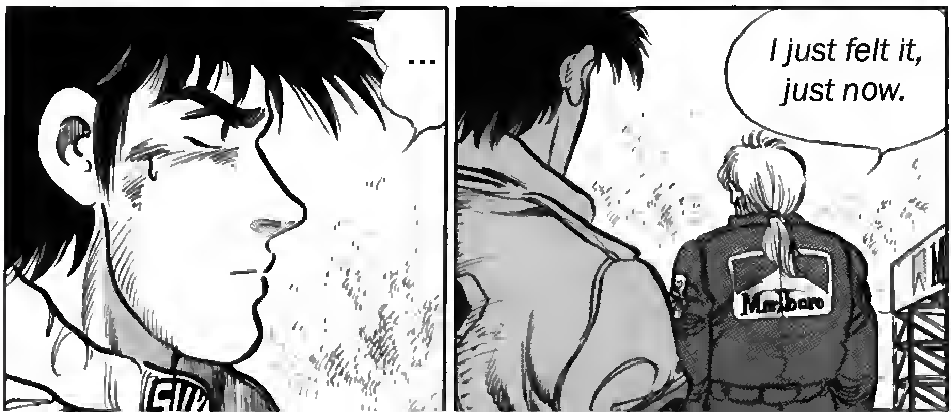
AKAGI
No! Oh no no no!
G...Gunma!

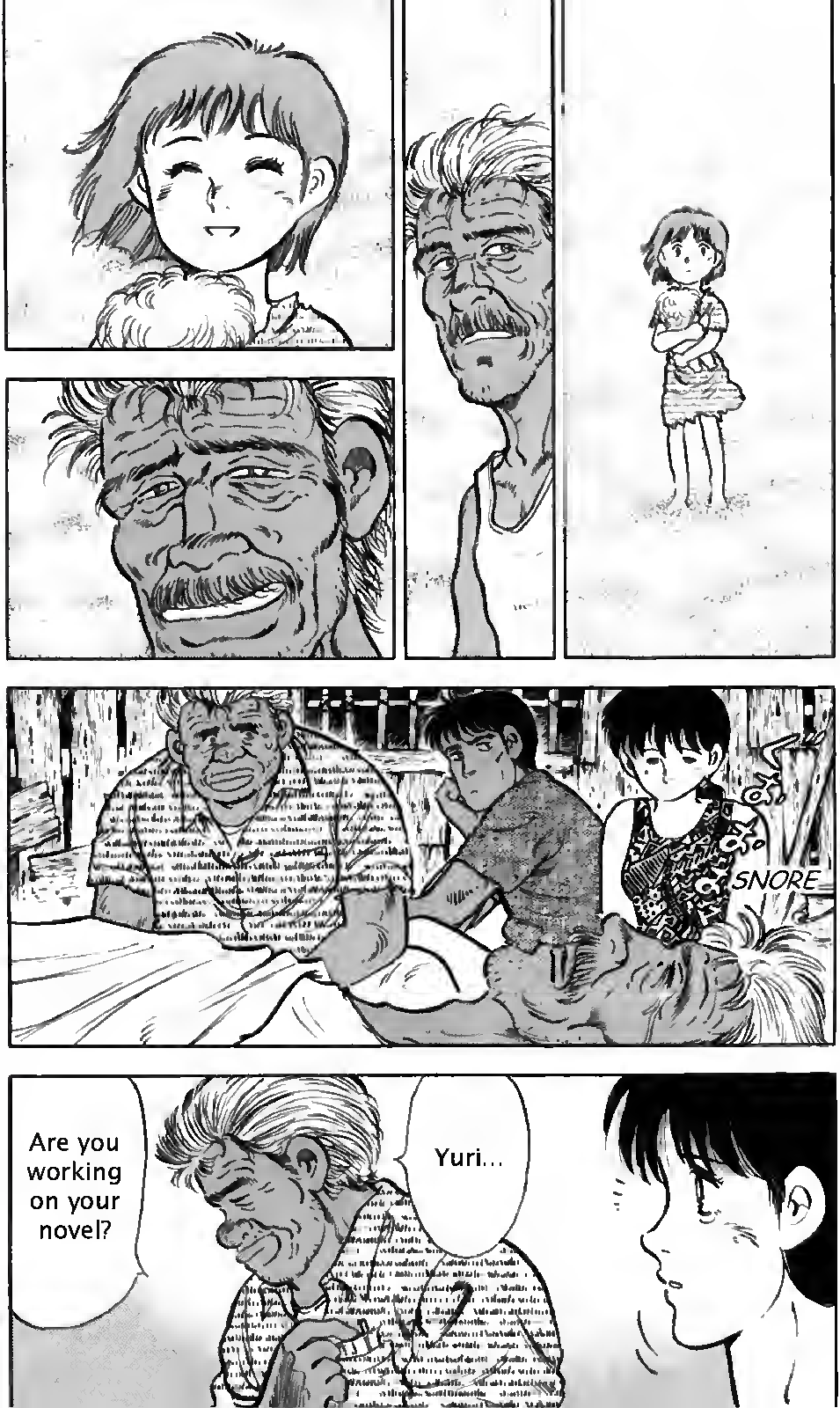
GARAGE 57
SILK
Shell
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
As Gunma Akagi went to take the inside, he scraped against Jesus!
This put them both out of the course!

Heh ...
Sorry 'bout that, Jesus.
Kinda lost it there for a sec...
...
What?
Monaco...
I knew you would run into me just now. I predicted it.
I didn't try to avoid it, because I wanted to get a better feel for your aura.

Mansell and the others have told me to keep quiet about my predictions, but...
I feel I must tell you just this one thing. The rest... What comes after... is up to you.

You will die at Monaco!
軍馬
Marlboro


...
I just felt it, just now.
Marlboro

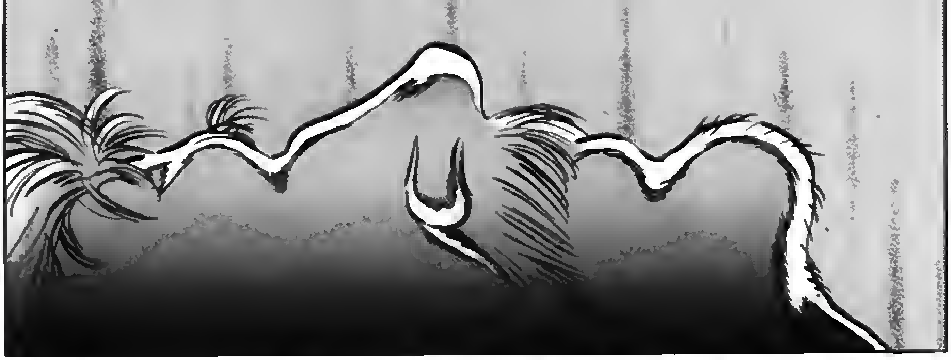

SNORE
Yuri...
Are you working on your novel?

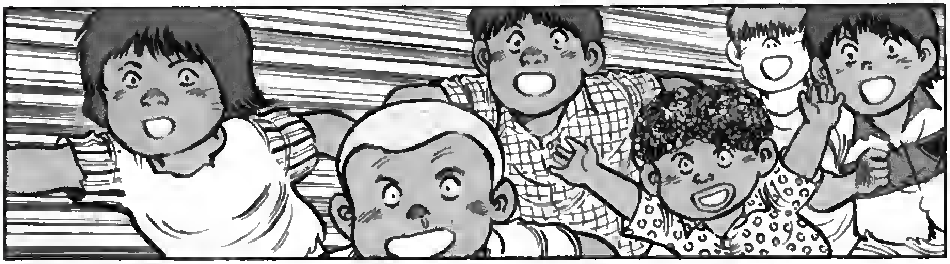
That's right ...
About what it means to live a first-rate life?
There's still some-thing im-portant I've yet to unders-tand...
I'm actually a little stuck right now...
SNORE
ぐぉぉ...
...
...there's still some-thing crucial I can't quite get a grasp of.
It's the theme of the novel. I made it all the way out here in my search for that answer. It's just that...
Do you mind... if I give you the answer?
We've lived our lives with those words as our mantra.
To live a first-rate life...
This was the theme of Mr. Akagi's life.
...!?

Shizue...
But I...
...and Mr. Akagi too, I imagine... We both understood that...
There is no first-rate or second-rate...
...in the way you live.
Just as there is no life that is more important than another.
There is no "first-rate" or "second-rate" when it comes to how you live your life.
That was just the dream we were chasing. That's all.
...!
A dream ... Like an illusion...!

But I...
...and Mr. Akagi too, I imagine... We both understood that...
There is no first-rate or second-rate...
...in the way you live.
Just as there is no life that is more important than another.
There is no "first-rate" or "second-rate" when it comes to how you live your life.

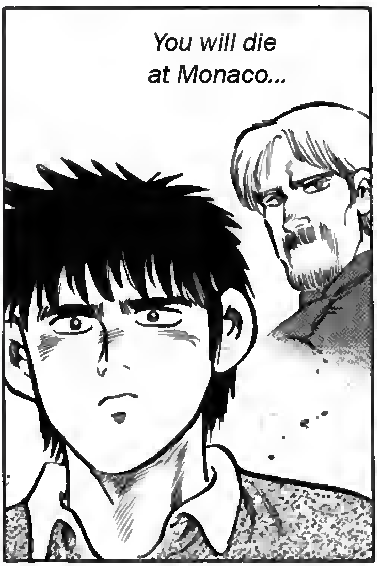
Shizue...
...!
That was just the dream we were chasing. That's all.
A dream ... Like an illu-sion...!

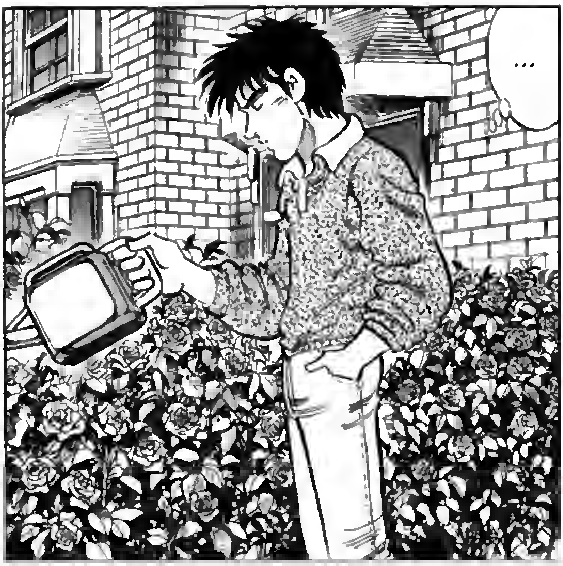


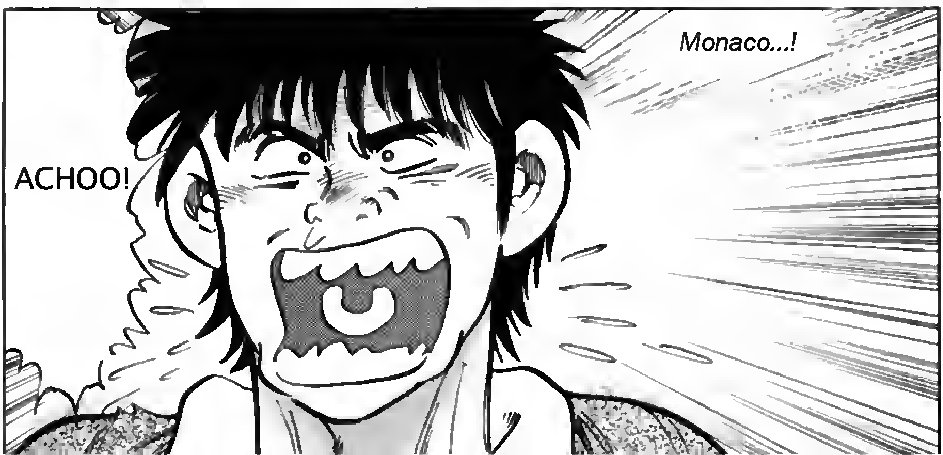


BG

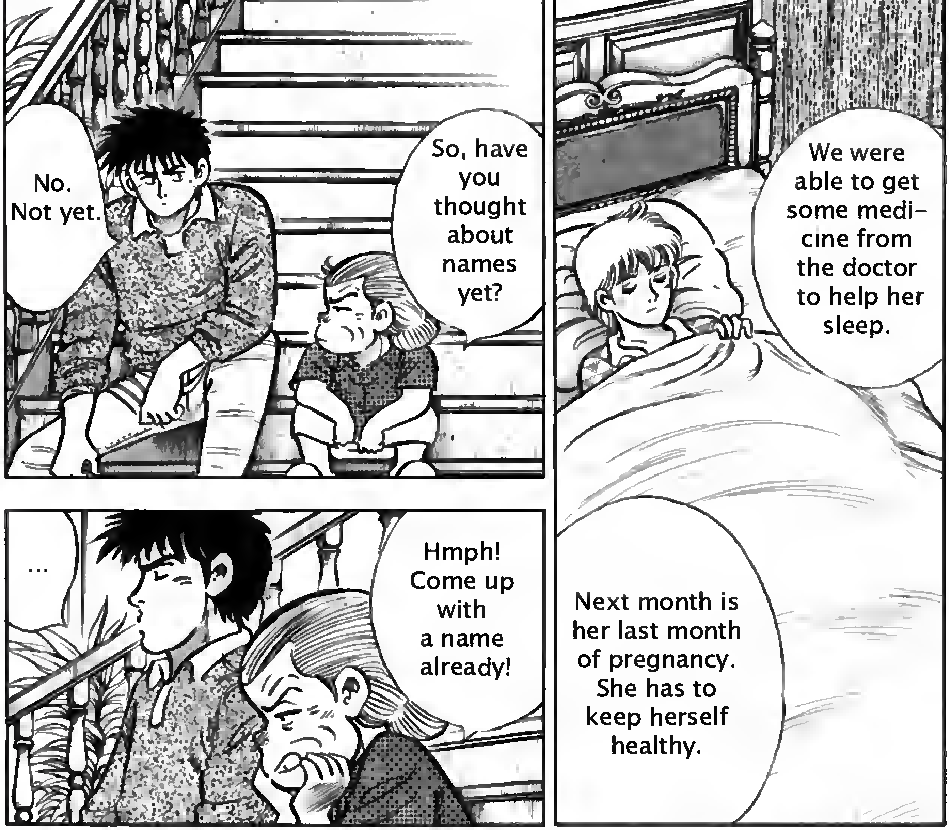
Chapter 11:
One Way
YEAR
Shell

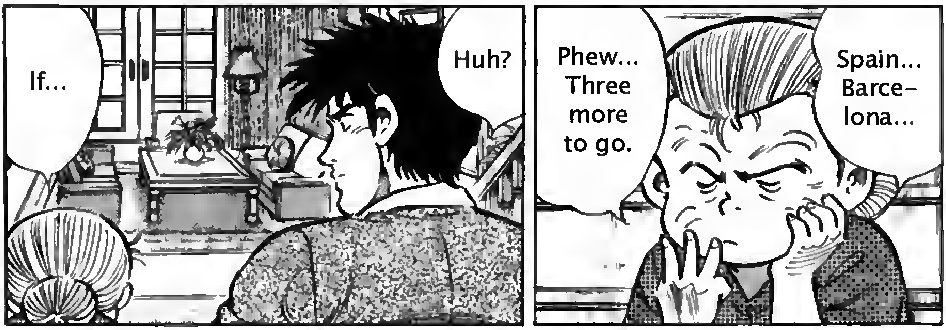

You will die
at Monaco...


...

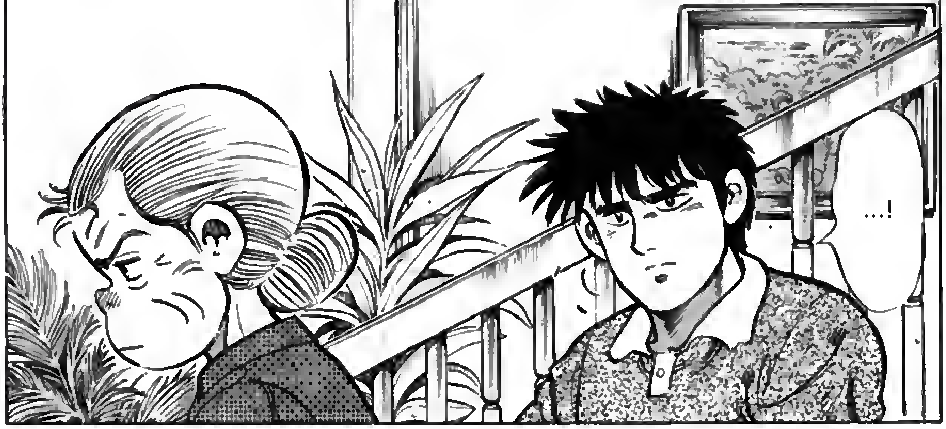

Monaco...!
ACHOO!

Shh hh!
Hey, Granny!
Man, someone's spreadin' rumors about me.
Hm?
I bet it's that Komori hag...
ZZZ
She just finally fell asleep.
Don't shout like that.
She's been having trouble sleeping for days.
She won't say it out loud, but she's been having a very difficult time lately.
...


No. Not yet.
So, have you thought about names yet?
We were able to get some medicine from the doctor to help her sleep.
...
Hmph! Come up with a name already!
Next month is her last month of pregnancy. She has to keep herself healthy.

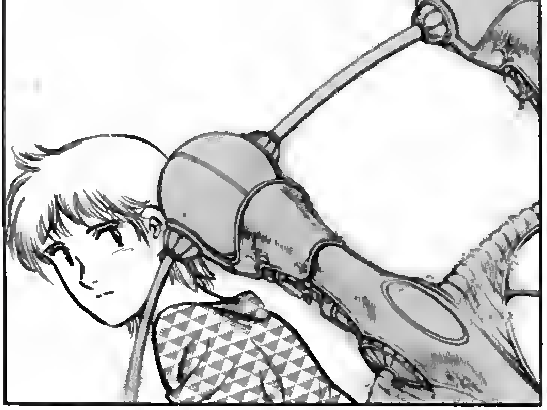

If...
Huh?
Phew... Three more to go.
Spain... Barcelona...

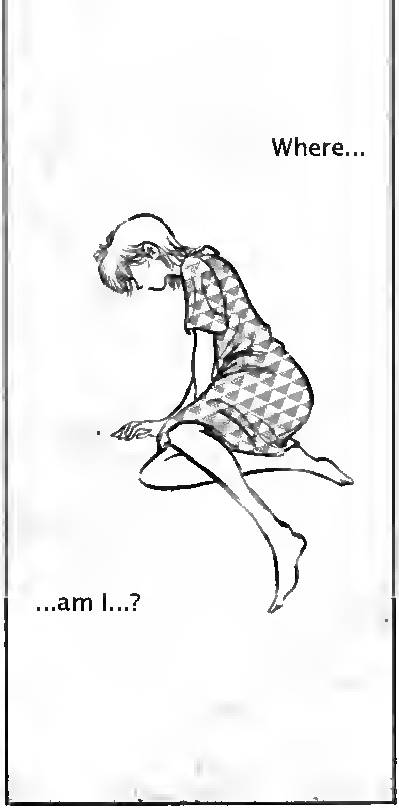
Promise me you'll at least stick around to see your baby.
Listen, Gunma...
...her expected due date is accurate, Junko will go into labor during the Monaco Grand Prix.

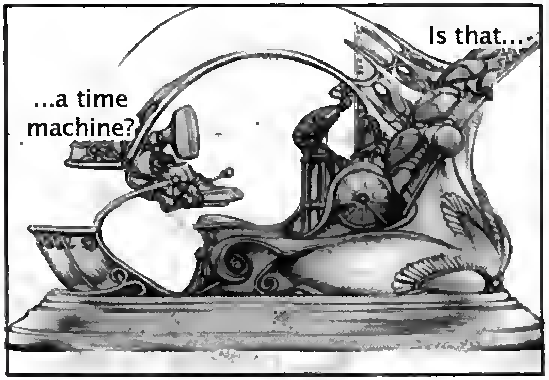

...!

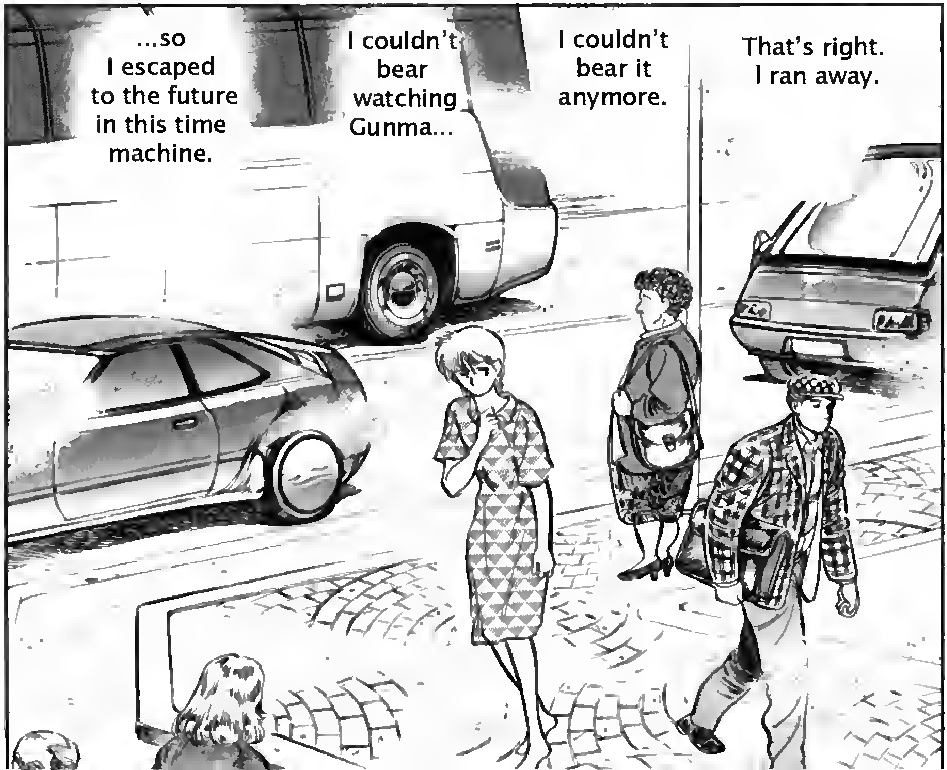
You will die
at Monaco...

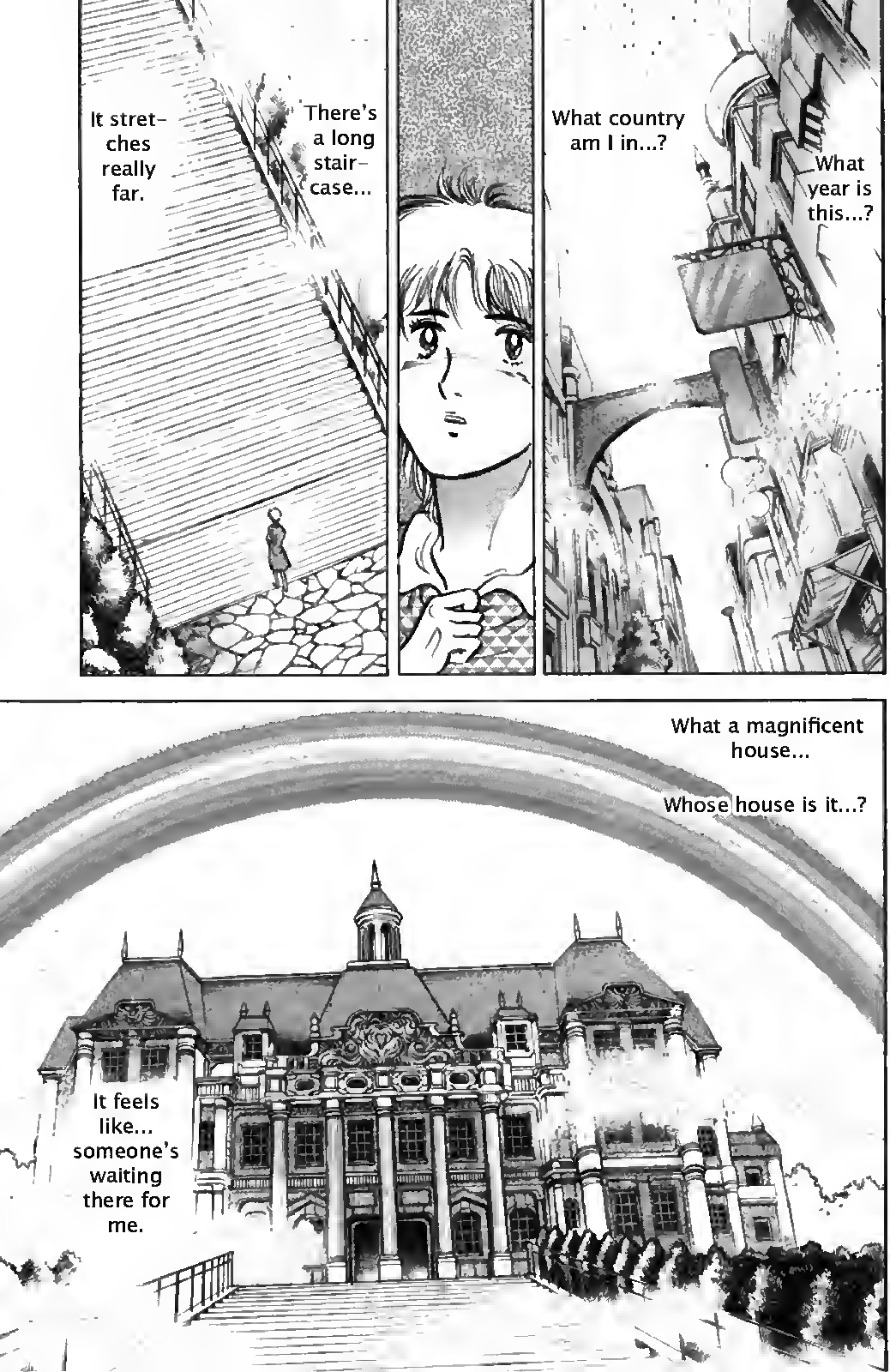
...
GLARE

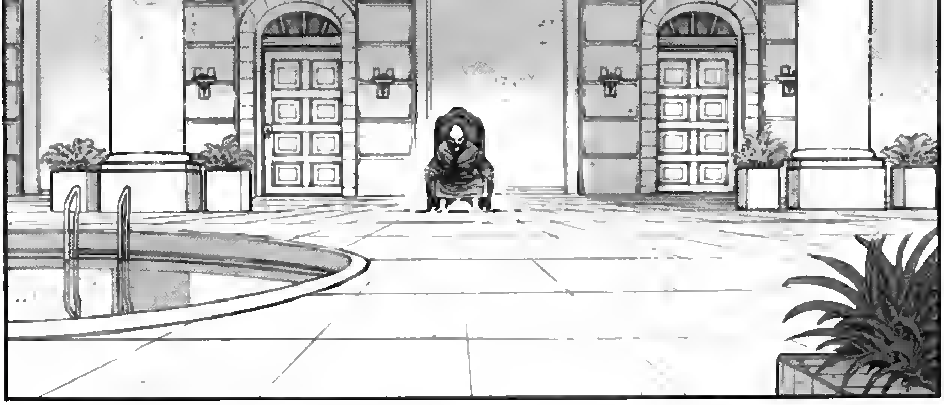



Where...
...am I...?


Is that....
...a time machine?


...so I escaped to the future in this time machine.
I couldn't bear watching Gunma...
I couldn't bear it anymore.
That's right. I ran away.

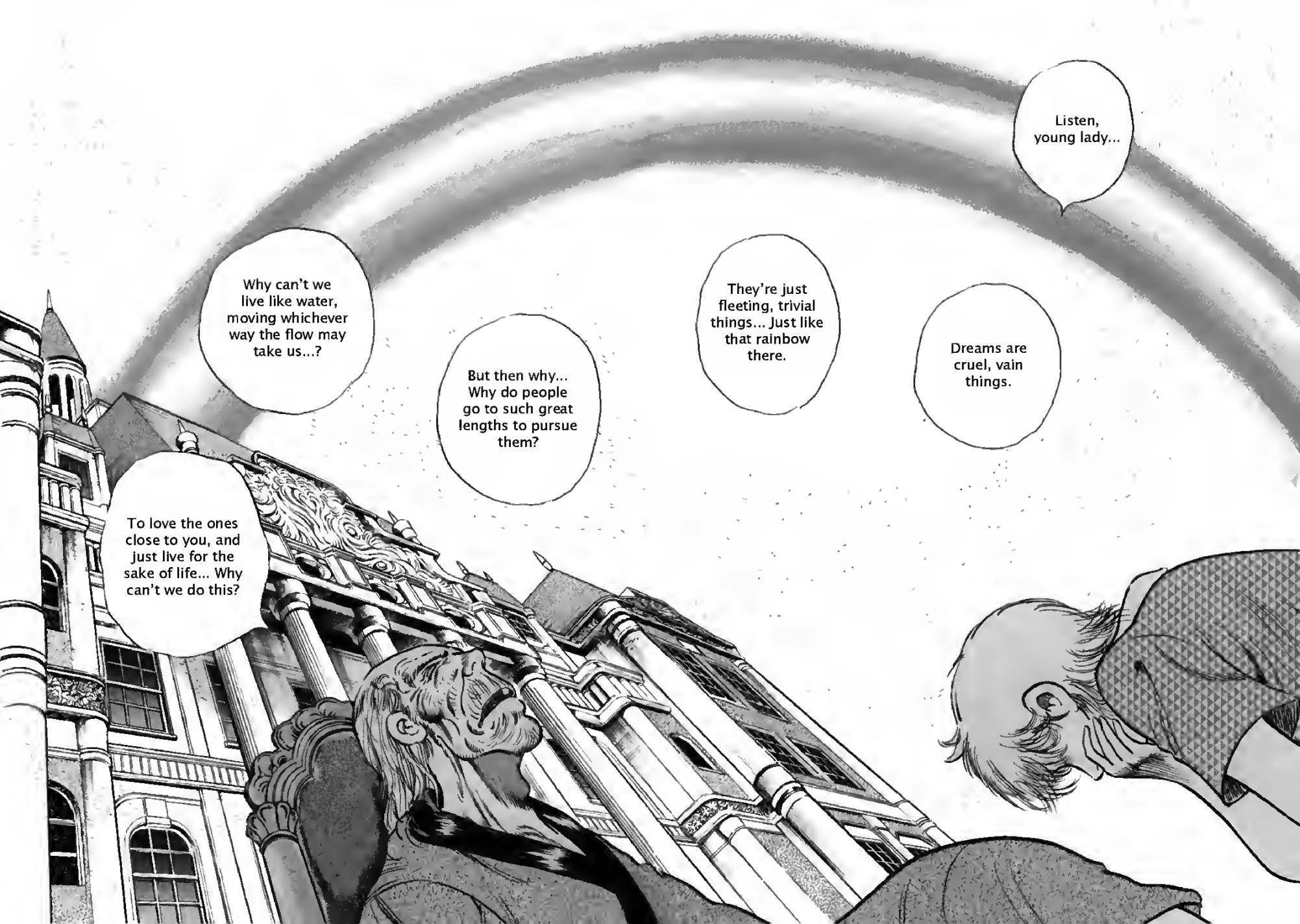

It stretches really far.
There's a long staircase...
What country am I in...?
What year is this...?
What a magnificent house...
Whose house is it...?
It feels like... someone's waiting there for me.



He has such deep wrinkles... He must have been through countless hardships and times of joy...
Who is that old man...?
It was just such a large house, I was curious.
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to intrude. I'm just a passerby.
Who is it...?
...
I got everything I've ever wanted... Wealth, fame, everything... Fwa ha ha ha... I made all my dreams from youth come true...
I see... Don't worry. Take your time and have a look around.
Fwa ha ha ha ha... Me, a happy man... Ha ha ha...
Happy...? Me?
You must be very happy...

Is... something wrong?
I said that I got ev-erything I've ever wanted... That was a lie.
I lied...
Just now, I told one lie.
A woman.
There's just one thing... One thing I never had.
She aban-doned me and left. Her name was... Junko.
The love of my life...

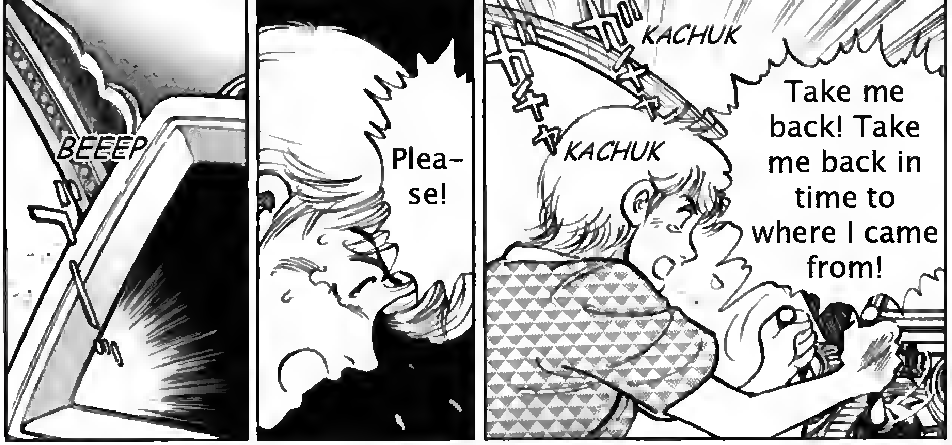
Are you... Could you be...
...Gunma Akagi...?
!?
How do you know my name...?
You... Woman...
How do you know my name!?
CLATTER
...
I just thought... Since you live in such a big house... You must be some-one famous.
...

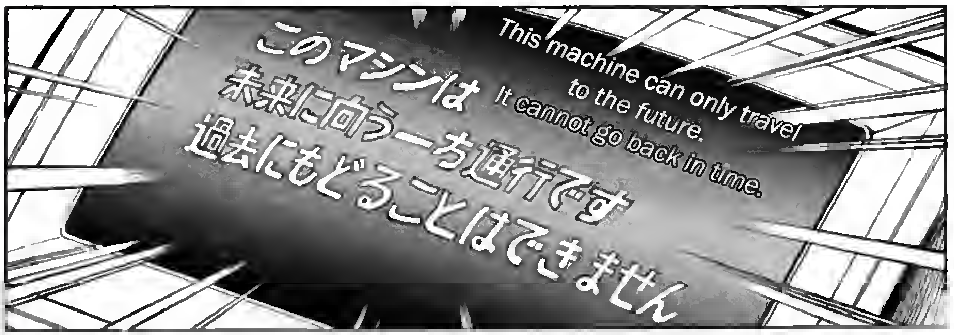

Listen, young lady...
Dreams are cruel, vain things.
They're just fleeting, trivial things... Just like that rainbow there.
But then why... Why do people go to such great lengths to pursue them?
Why can't we live like water, moving whichever way the flow may take us...?
To love the ones close to you, and just live for the sake of life... Why can't we do this?

Listen, young lady...
They're just fleeting, trivial things... Just like that rainbow there.
Dreams are cruel, vain things.

Why can't we live like water, moving whichever way the flow may take us...?
But then why... Why do people go to such great lengths to pursue them?
To love the ones close to you, and just live for the sake of life... Why can't we do this?

I'm glad I had a chance to speak to you in my final moments...
All my friends are already gone. I'm the only one left.
Go on now, young lady.
I must be going now...
It looks like the time has come...
Go...
N...No...
...going back to where I came from!
I'm going back... I'm...

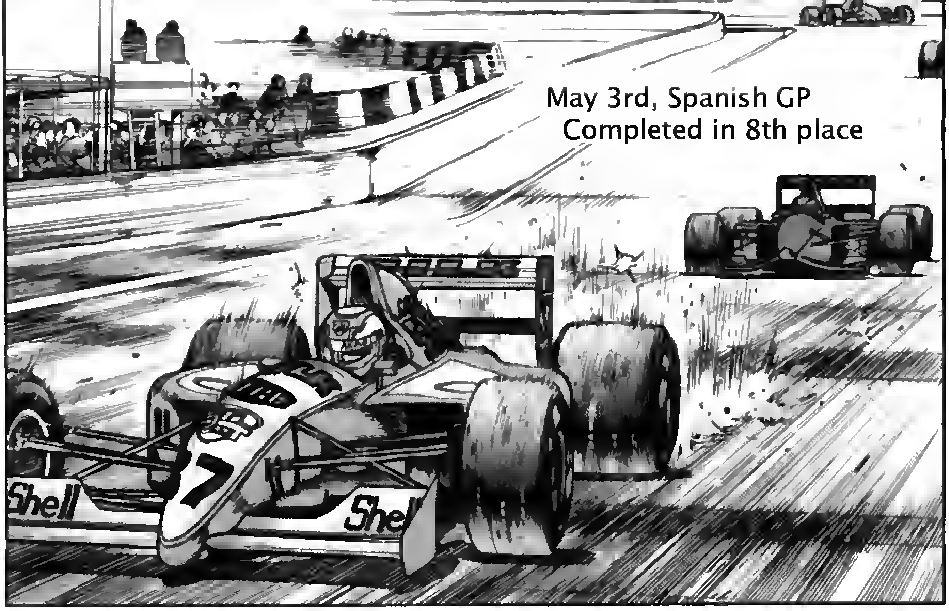

BEEEP
Plea-
se!
KACHUK
KACHUK
Take me back! Take me back in time to where I came from!


このマシンは
未来に向う一方通行です
過去にもどることはできません
This machine can only travel to the future.
It cannot go back in time.

NOOOO
OOO!

You all right, Junko!?
...
Junko ...
Junko... What's wrong...?
I'm okay ...
GRASP
RRRRR...
...
It was just a silly dream...

Gunma, it's for you. From Yuma.
...?
...
...
...!?


May 3rd, Spanish GP
Completed in 8th place
Shell
Shell

May 17th, San Marino GP
6th place achieved
NES LONGINES
Mobil 1

Moving on...

Chapter 12:
Colorful Town

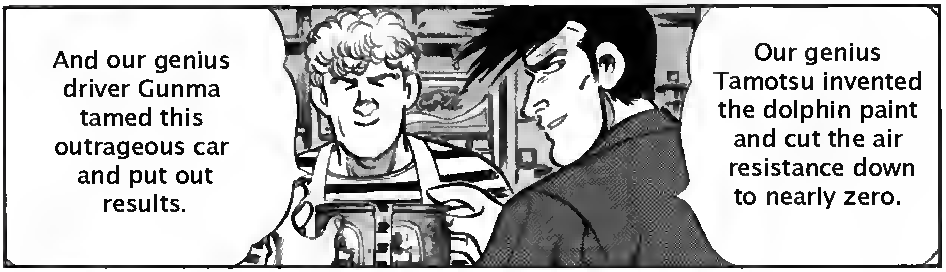
1992 Monaco

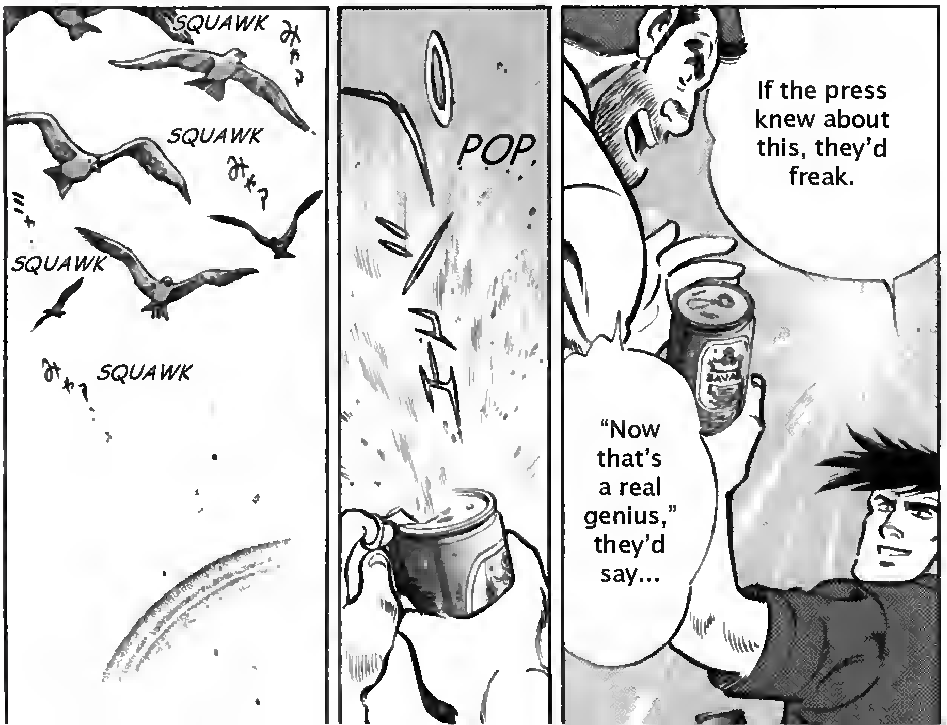
1992 Monaco

White yachts.
Blue skies.
The wealthy and their gilded splendor.
Pas- sion... Desire...
The color red...
Sun- tanned bodies.

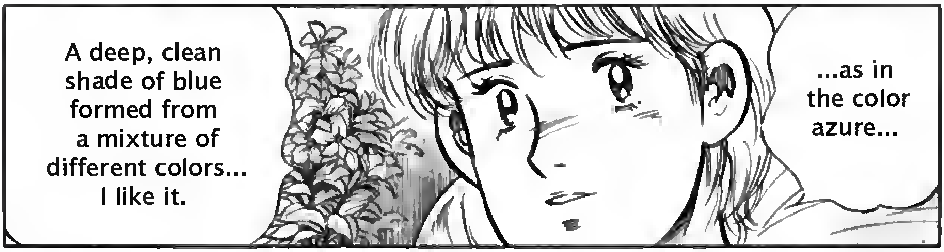
Rage, impatience, and envy.
The gray asphalt...
Thick greenery...
High-pitched screams...
CLOP
Whenever I walk here, I always think...
This town bears a strange sense of destiny. Like some sort of spectrograph.
...what a colorful town this is.
What a brooding poet you are!
Here, people are mere spectra of light.
Come on, man...
GUNM

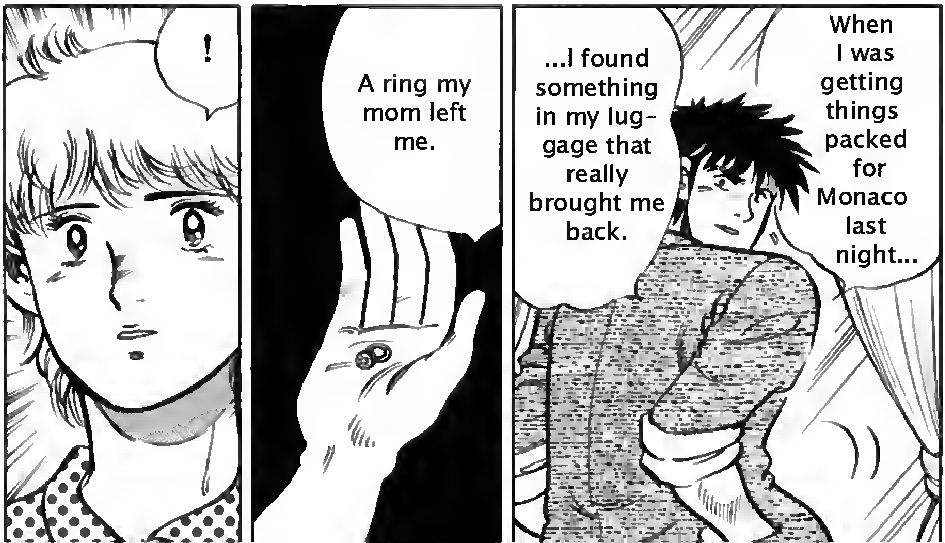
A genius, huh...?
He's making some serious progress in a powerless car. It's the coming of the genius Japanese driver!
It's all because he moved up in the ranks in Barcelona and Imola.
Look at this big poster of Gunma.


And our genius driver Gunma tamed this outrageous car and put out results.
Our genius Tamotsu invented the dolphin paint and cut the air resistance down to nearly zero.


SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
POP
If the press knew about this, they'd freak.
"Now that's a real genius," they'd say...

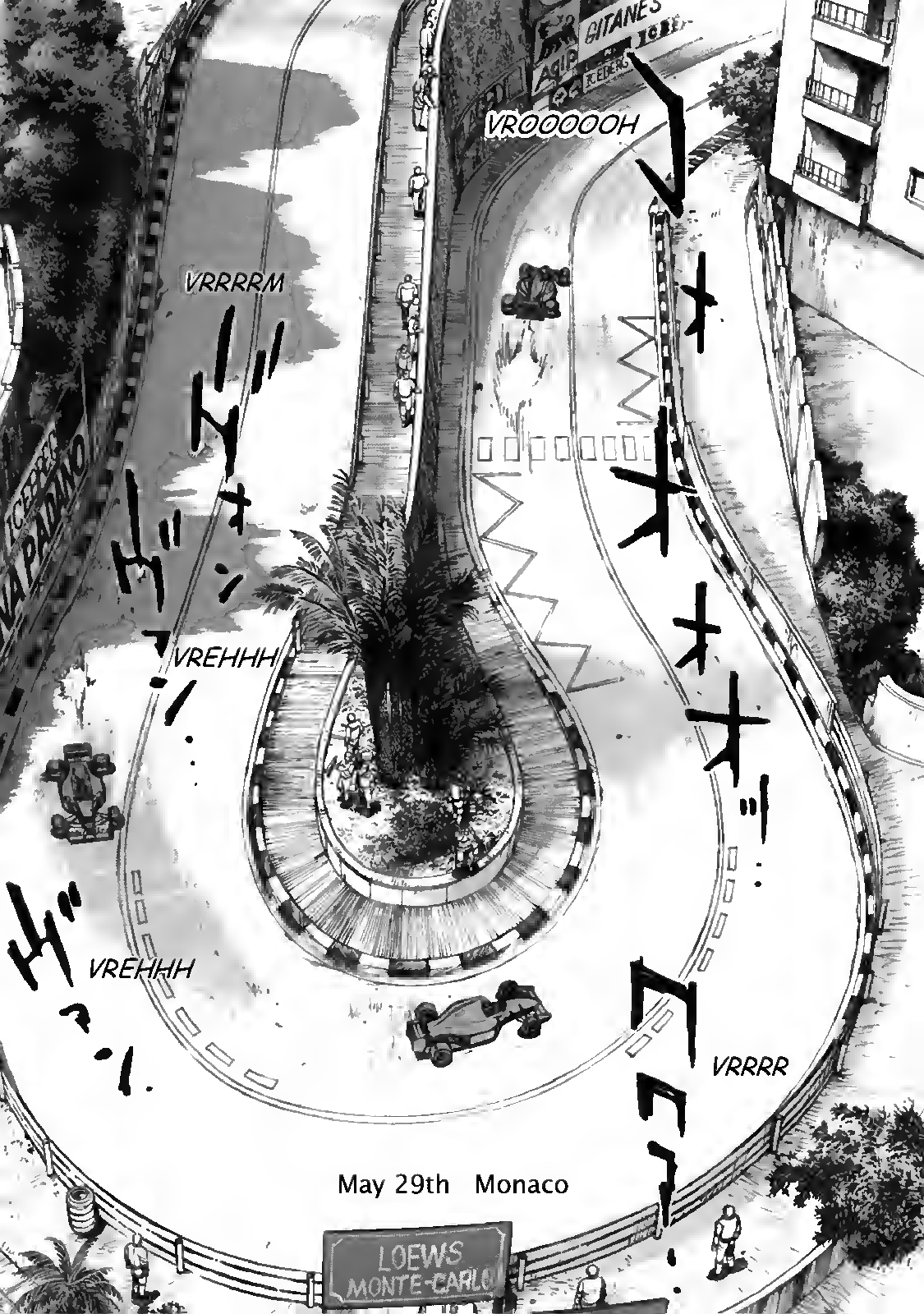
What do you think of the name "Ruri"?
Ruri...
I've been thinkin' about it a lot.
London


A deep, clean shade of blue formed from a mixture of different colors... I like it.
...as in the color azure...

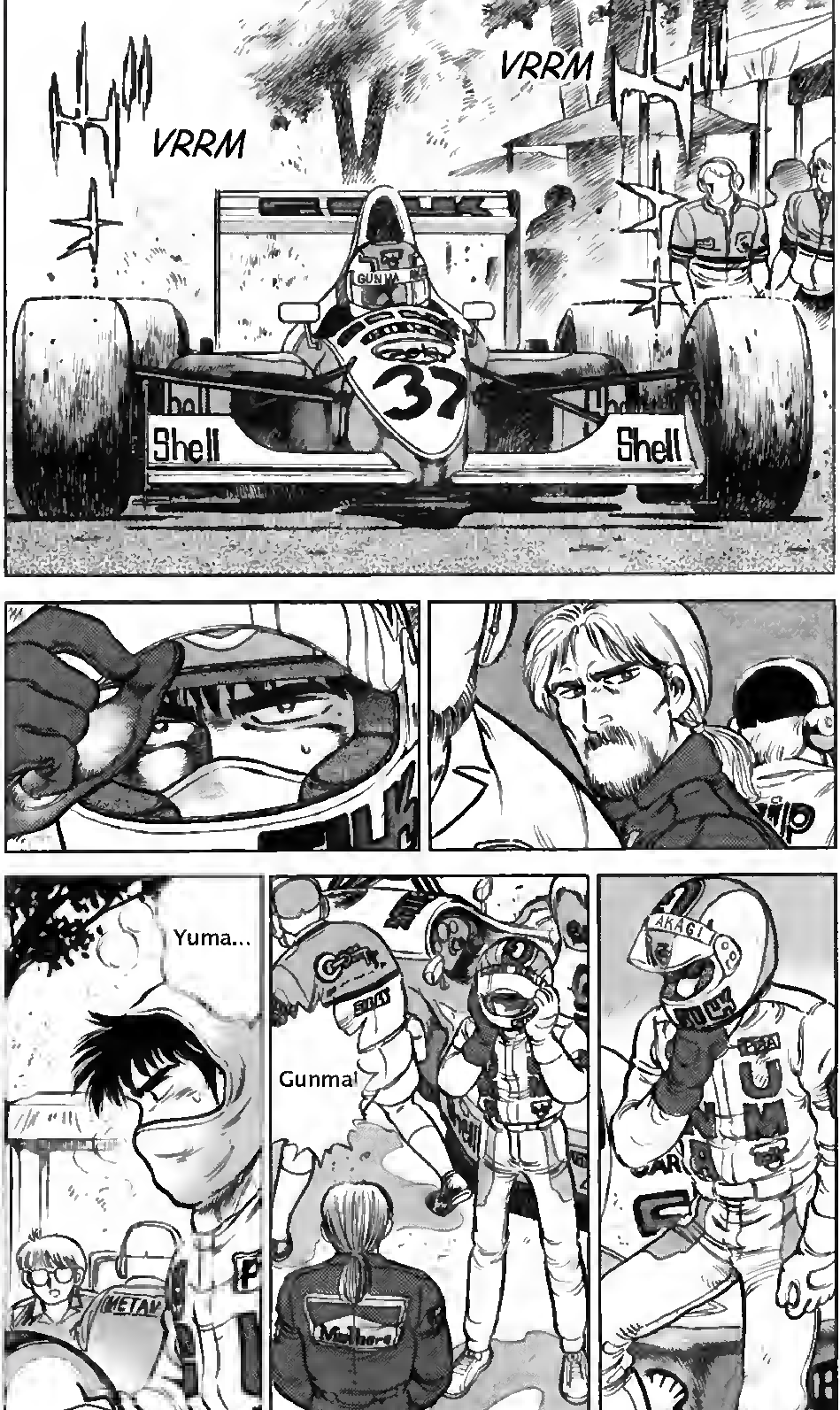

!
A ring my mom left me.
...I found something in my luggage that really brought me back.
When I was getting things packed for Monaco last night...

I thought I'd lost it somewhere a long time ago.
But my mom treasured it until the very end. She gave it to me just before she died.
It was a cheap ring my dad gave to her. He lied and told her it was blue diamond.
Last night, I held it up to the light and looked closely at it.
It's like...
Ruri...
...within the ring.
It's like light dwells...

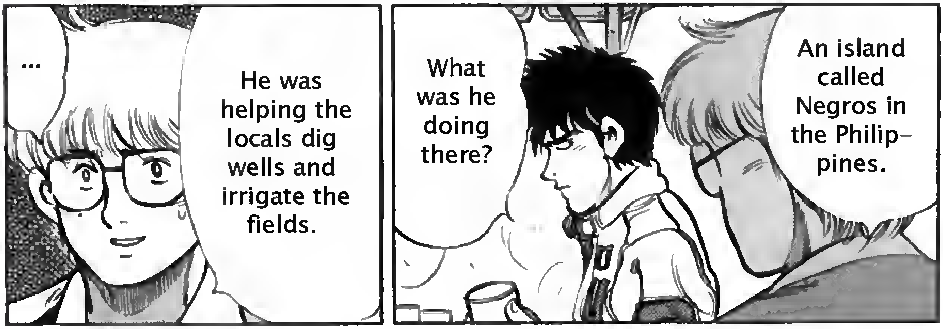
Sure.
I want it...
Can I have this ring, Gunma?
...I promise!
I'll be back...
I gotta get going.
...safe and sound!
And I'll give birth to Ruri...

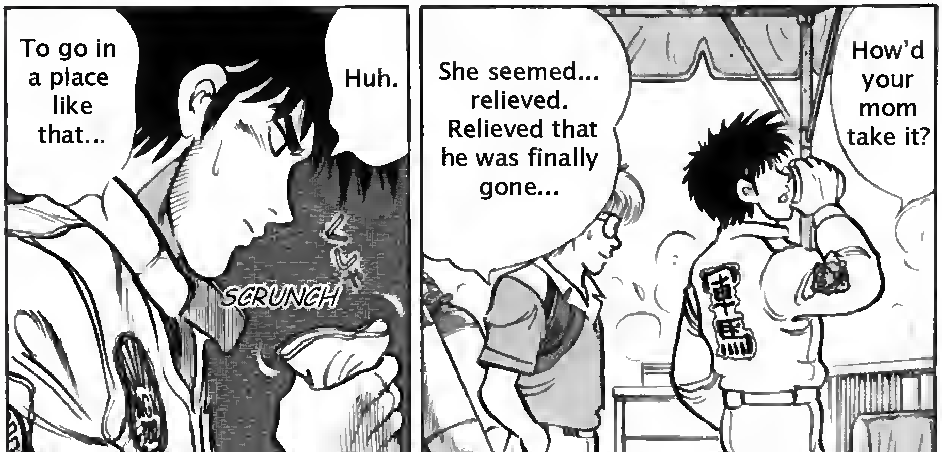


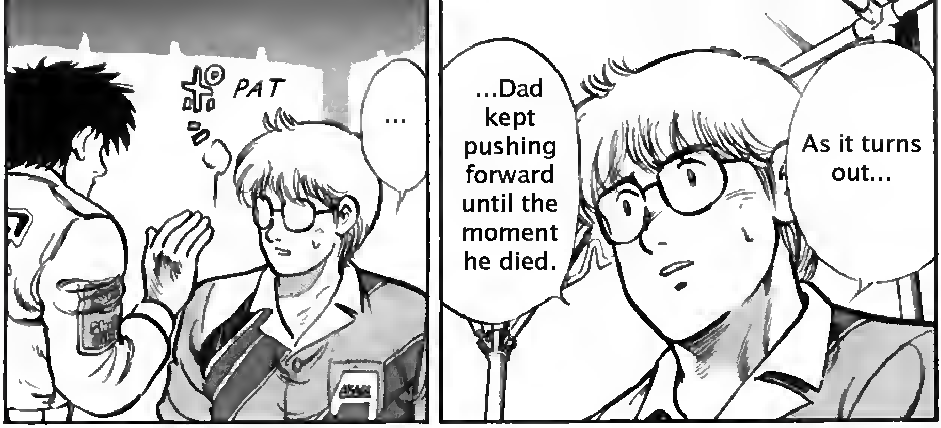
May 29th Monaco


VRRM
VRRM
GUNMA
37
Shell
Shell
Yuma...
Gunma!
AKAGI

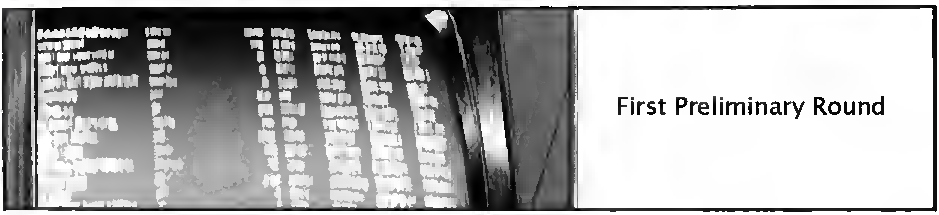
...
Where was Dad when he kicked the bucket?
It ain't like that, bud.
I was just busy, that's all.
You couldn't make it to the funeral, huh?
You still have some hard feelings or something?

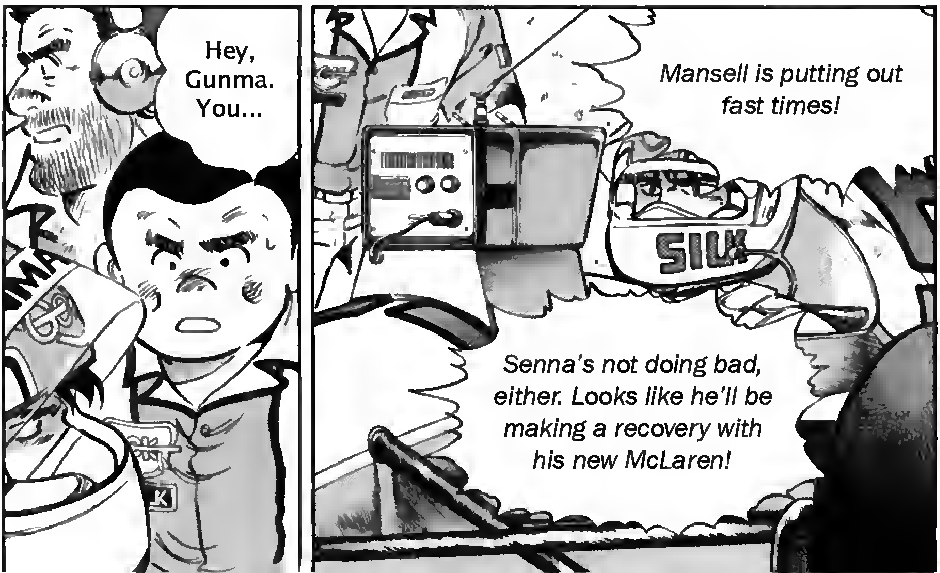

...
He was helping the locals dig wells and irrigate the fields.
What was he doing there?
An island called Negros in the Philip-pines.

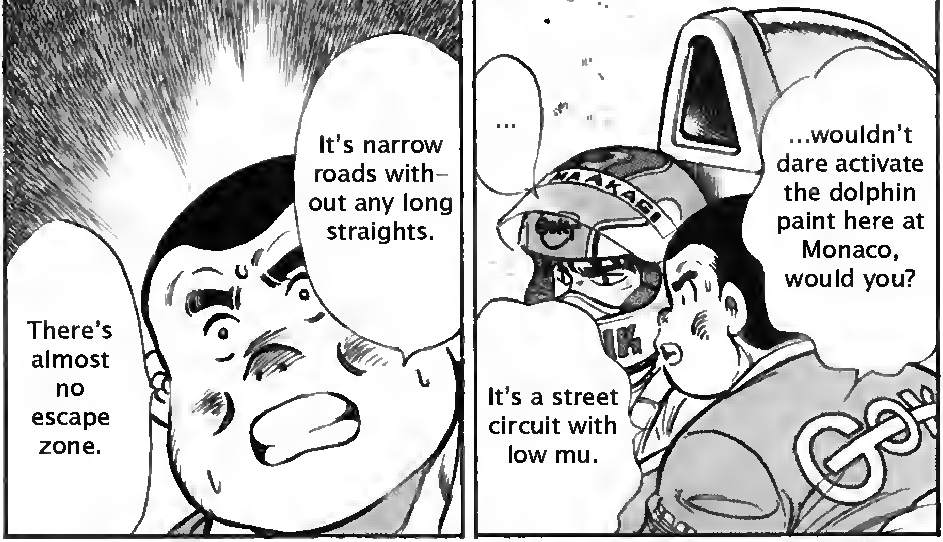

To go in a place like that...
Huh.
SCRUNCH
She seemed... relieved. Relieved that he was finally gone...
How'd your mom take it?


PAT
...
...Dad kept pushing forward until the moment he died.
As it turns out...

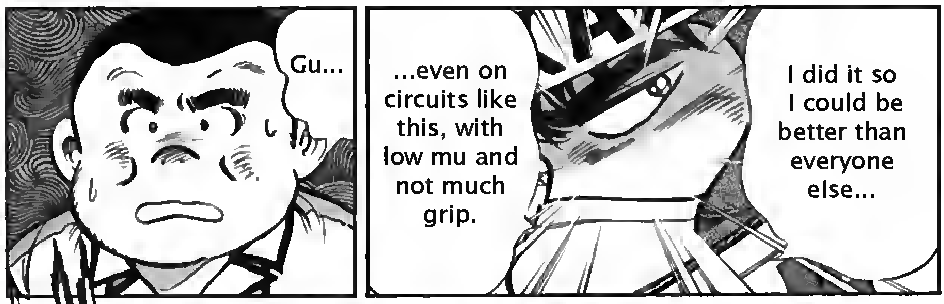
...
You never know. He might still be pushing forward, even after his death.

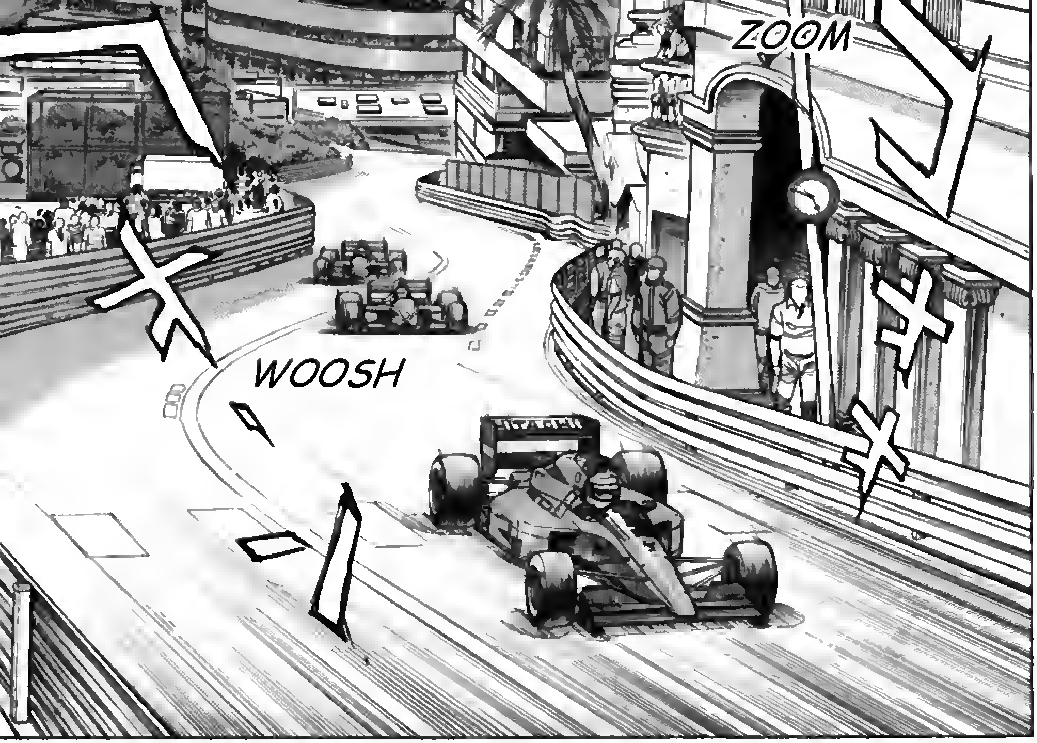

First Preliminary Round

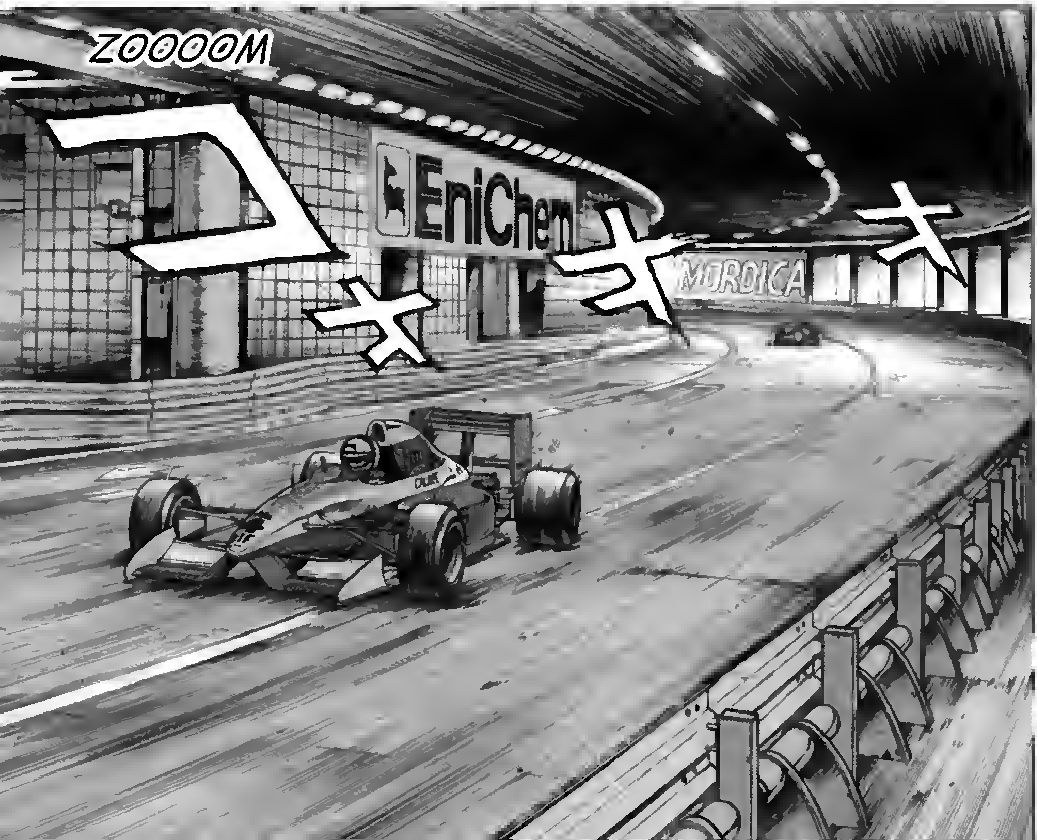

Hey, Gunma. You...
Mansell is putting out fast times!
Senna's not doing bad, either. Looks like he'll be making a recovery with his new McLaren!


It's narrow roads without any long straights.
There's almost no escape zone.
...
...wouldn't dare activate the dolphin paint here at Monaco, would you?
It's a street circuit with low mu.
AKAGI
SILK

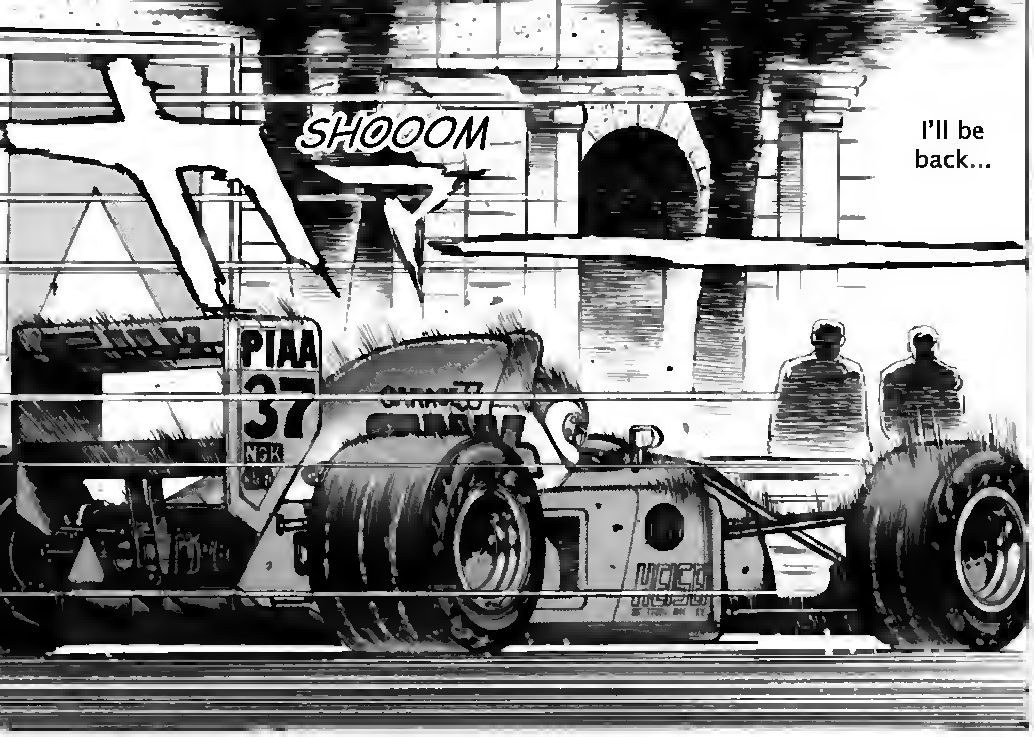
*Mu: Friction between the road and the tires




ZOOM
WOOSH


ZOOOOM
EniChem
MORDICA

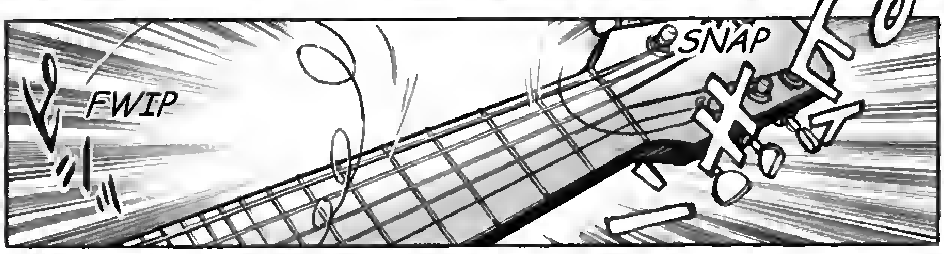
WOOSH
VRRRRRRR
Junko...
FWOOSH

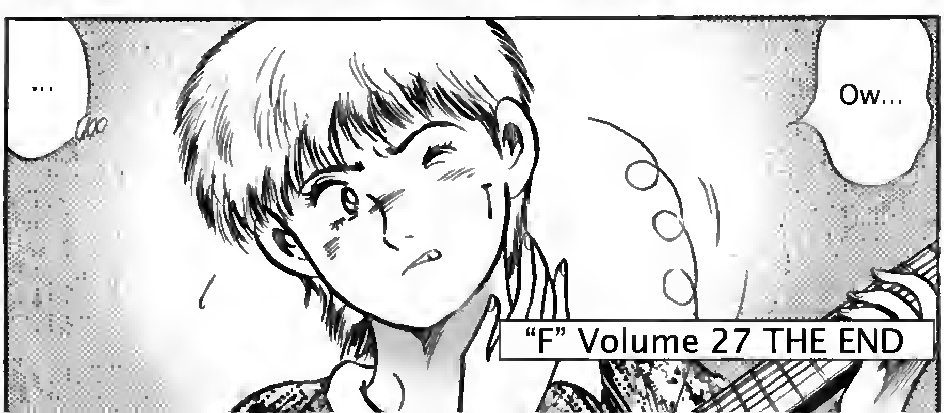

SHOOOM
I'll be back...
PIAA
37

HITACHI
日刊アルバイトニュース
HONK
HONK
TOS
フジカラー
Fukuoka

DUNLOP
TWAAANG

TWAAANG
...


FWIP
SNAP


...
Ow...
"F" Volume 27 THE END

F VOL.27

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